FRIDAY
March 6, 2026

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
22 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

Vol. 57 • No. 55

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

To subscribe, give a missed call at 9828331787 or scan QR code

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

K.K. VENUGOPAL INTERVIEW

'Kalyan Singh lied on Babri Masjid'

NEWS » PAGE 14

ENCORE BECKONS

India edges England, makes T20 WC final

SPORT » PAGE 19

NEW POLICY

Incentives in A.P. to have three children

SOUTH » PAGE 11

PARLEY

Is SC doing enough to tackle hate speech?

Before, it had closed case, turned petitioner to HC

OPINION » PAGE 13

BALLOT POWER

Nepal polls conclude with 60% turnout

WORLD » PAGE 18

NEARBY

Siddaramaiah to present State Budget today

BENGALURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will present Karnataka's Budget for 2026–27 in the Assembly on Friday at 10.15 a.m., and it is likely to provide thrust on welfare schemes and infrastructure development.

» PAGE 10

Lokayukta Police conduct raids on nine officials

BENGALURU
The Lokayukta Police conducted searches at over 42 locations in connection with disproportionate assets cases registered against nine government officers.

» PAGE 7

METROPLUS » PAGE 9

Nitish files his RS papers ahead of exit as Bihar CM

JD(U) chief submits papers in the presence of Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP chief Nitin Nabin; Nitish says on social media he wishes to be an RS member; Opposition slams 'betrayal of mandate'

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

Marking the end of an era, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar filed his nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. He was accompanied by the other four candidates of the ruling National Democratic Alliance, including BJP national president Nitin Nabin, who filed their papers for the five Rajya Sabha seats from Bihar that will fall vacant on April 9.

While the Opposition mocked Mr. Kumar for becoming a "puppet of the BJP", accusing him of betraying the electoral mandate, rumours buzzed within the NDA about who would succeed him in Patna, with discussions about the Janata Dal (United) chief's son being given the Deputy CM role under a BJP CM.

New beginning: Chief Minister Nitish Kumar files his nomination for the Rajya Sabha at the Vidhan Sabha in Patna on Thursday. ANI

'Spotless tenure'

Confirming speculation about the end of his 20-year rule in Bihar with a post on social media, Mr. Kumar declared that he had a "desire in his heart" to become a member of both the Houses of Parliament. As he has previously been a Lok Sabha member, he now "seeks" to become a member of the Rajya Sabha, he said.

After all five candidates filed their nomination papers, Mr. Shah praised Mr. Kumar's tenure in Bihar as "spotless, memorable, and golden".

He added: "Nitish Kumar *ji* will be remembered for the glorious works he has done for the development of the State."

NDA sources told news agency *PTI* that it will take a few weeks before Mr. Kumar relinquishes the CM's post, which he is likely to hold until leaving for the national capital to be sworn in as an MP.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14
END OF AN ERA
» PAGE 14

State Cabinet fails to arrive at a decision on internal quota issue

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The vexed issue of internal reservation is set to bog down the Karnataka government for some more time to come, as the Cabinet meeting on Thursday could not arrive at a decision. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah told his colleagues that a decision could be taken at a special Cabinet meet that would be called shortly.

With this, the decision to go ahead with the recruitment for 56,432 posts with a 50% cap on reservation and without internal reservation holds ground.

Even after a long deliberation, the Cabinet could not arrive at a decision as opposition to internal reservation within the 15% reservation quota for Scheduled Castes came on legal grounds, and the problem that could arise with roster system, sources said. The Chief Minister is learnt to have shot down a proposal to set up a committee to recommend a solution.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil addressing the media in Bengaluru on Thursday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

"There was a long deliberation, but discussion remained incomplete. All Ministers were not able to put forth their views. The Chief Minister suggested that the decision can be taken in the next Cabinet meet," Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil told presspersons here during the Cabinet briefing.

"Whatever the Cabinet decided earlier (about recruitment with 50% cap on reservation and without internal quota) does not change. The next Cabinet meet to discuss the issue will be convened as early as possible," he said.

The internal reservation issue has created a rift between Dalit communities.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Siddaramaiah is learnt to have discussed the matter with retired judge H.N. Nagmohan Das, based on whose reports the reservation for SCs and STs had been increased from 15% to 17% and 3% to 7%, respectively, and internal reservation matrix drawn. He also met Advocate-General K. Shashikiran Shetty to seek legal advice over the matter, sources said.

Sources said that the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms order last Saturday that laid down the guidelines for recruitment authorities/ departments in which reservation issues have been covered will not be disturbed till the Cabinet decides on the internal reservation issue.

Iran launches fresh attacks against Israel, U.S.

Associated Press
DUBAI

Iran launched a new wave of attacks against Israel, American bases and countries around the region on Thursday, even as Israel and the U.S. hammered the Islamic Republic for a sixth day. Bahrain said an Iranian missile hit a state-run oil refinery. It said the fire on Thursday night was extinguished and the refinery was still working.

The war keeps escalating each day, affecting additional 14 countries across West Asia and beyond. On Thursday, Azerbaijan accused Iran of attacking it with drones – though Tehran denied that. A day earlier, the U.S. said it sank an Iranian frigate in the waters off Sri Lanka.

Israel, meanwhile, issued a mass evacuation warning for all of Beirut's southern suburbs as the fighting escalated with Lebanon's Iran-allied Hezbollah militants. UN peacekeepers reported ground combat in southern Lebanon as more Israeli troops crossed the border.

All the while, the U.S. and Israel have battered Iran with nationwide strikes, targeting their military capabilities leadership and nuclear programme. Israeli and American leaders have also suggested that toppling the government was a goal.

The war has killed at least 1,230 people in Iran, more than 70 in Lebanon and around a dozen in Israel, according to officials in those countries. Six U.S. troops have been killed.

An Iranian cleric called on state television for the shedding of both Israel's and "Trump's blood". A statement from Ayatollah Abdollah Javadi Amoli gave a rare call for violence by an ayatollah, one of the highest ranks within the clergy of Shia Islam. There are dozens in Iran.

Under fire: A plume of smoke rises after a strike on the Iranian capital of Tehran on Thursday. AFP

Israel announced multiple incoming missile attacks and air sirens sounded in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. The Israeli military said it carried out a wave of strikes on Iran's ballistic missile launch sites.

Gulf countries also reported coming under fire. In Abu Dhabi, a drone was shot down near the Al Dhafra Air Base, which hosts U.S. forces, and shrapnel fell to the ground, authorities said. Six people were wounded.

Qatar evacuated residents near the U.S. Embassy in Doha as a temporary precaution and later reported a missile attack on the city. Saudi Arabia said it destroyed a drone in its province bordering Jordan.

Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev accused Iran of carrying out "a groundless act of terror and aggression" after a drone crashed Thursday near the airport in Nakhchivan.

RELATED REPORTS ON
» PAGES 15, 17 & 18
EDITORIAL
» PAGE 12

Ahead of crucial Assembly elections, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal Governors changed

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday appointed Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi as the Governor of West Bengal, while Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar was given the additional charge of Tamil Nadu. The appointments come ahead of the announcement of crucial Assembly elections in these States.

Bihar, which saw a major political change during the day with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar filing nominations for the Rajya Sabha elections, also witnessed a change in the gubernatorial seat, with Lt. General Syed Ata Hasnain (retd) being appointed the Governor, replacing Arif Mohammed Khan.

Shiv Pratap Shukla, Governor of Himachal Pradesh, was transferred to Telangana; Governor Jishnu Dev Varma was transferred from Telangana to Maharashtra; Delhi's Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena was moved to Ladakh, while Ladakh L-G Kavinder Gupta was elevated to Governor of Himachal Pradesh, according to a communication from the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Taranjit Singh Sandhu, former Indian Ambassador to the U.S., who later joined the Bharatiya Janata Party and unsuccessfully contested the 2024 Lok Sabha election from Amritsar, was appointed the new L-G of Delhi.

BJP leader and former Bihar Assembly Speaker Nand Kishore Yadav was appointed Governor of Nagaland.

Gubernatorial postings

President Droupadi Murmu announced new Governors for seven States and Lt. Governors for two Union Territories on Thursday

Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
Given additional charge of **Tamil Nadu**
Current/ previous role **Governor of Kerala**

R.N. Ravi
Appointed Governor of **West Bengal**
Current/ previous role **Governor of Tamil Nadu**

Name	State/Union Territory
Jishnu Dev Varma	Maharashtra
Shiv Pratap Shukla	Telangana
Kavinder Gupta	Himachal Pradesh
Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Syed Ata Hasnain	Bihar
Nand Kishore Yadav	Nagaland
Taranjit Singh Sandhu	Delhi
Vinai Kumar Saxena	Ladakh

West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose has resigned from his post ahead of Assembly polls

West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose and Ladakh Lieutenant-Governor Kavinder Gupta resigned on Thursday.

Mr. Gupta was appointed Ladakh's L-G in July 2025. His tenure witnessed unprecedented violence on September 24, 2025, in Leh city, when four people, including a Kargil war veteran, were killed in police firing when a protest to demand constitutional safeguards for the region turned violent.

Stormy relations

Relations between Mr. Ravi and the M.K. Stalin government in Tamil Nadu have been stormy, with the ruling DMK accusing the former of positioning himself as a political rival to an elected government.

Mr. Ravi withheld assent for several Bills, following which the Supreme Court invoked powers in April 2025 to declare 10 Bills "effectively approved". Mr. Ravi had also repeatedly walked out of the Assembly without reading out the customary Governor's Address or digressing from the government's prepared text.

Incidentally, it was at Mr. Ravi's suggestion that the name of Raj Bhavan was changed to Lok Bhavan a few months ago.

Shocked, says Mamata

Mr. Bose, who had been in the position for more than three years, submitted his resignation to Ms. Murmu in Delhi.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Thursday that Union Home Minister Amit Shah called her and informed about Mr. Ravi's appointment. Ms. Banerjee said she was "shocked and deeply concerned by the sudden news of the resignation" of Mr. Bose.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

Maldives, Sri Lanka alarmed at bombing in Indian Ocean

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The sinking of an Iranian ship by the U.S. in the Indian Ocean raises concern for the smaller countries in the region, leaders from Sri Lanka and the Maldives, who have gathered for the Raisina Dialogue here, said on Thursday.

Indian diplomats described the attack in the Indian Ocean, close to Sri Lanka, as concerning, especially given that the warship, *IRIS Dena*, was returning from multilateral exercises held with the Indian Navy last month.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 15

Sri Lanka evacuates the crew of second Iranian ship near its territorial waters

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka is evacuating 208 crew members from an Iranian naval ship – *IRINS Bushehr* – stranded near its territorial waters, President Anura Kumara Dissanayake said on Thursday, a day after a U.S. submarine torpedoed another Iranian warship off Sri Lanka's southern coast, killing at least 84 sailors and widening the war in West Asia into the Indian Ocean region.

The Sri Lankan Navy would take the crew to the Colombo Port, while the vessel will be diverted to the eastern Trincomalee harbour, Mr. Dissanayake said in a televised address on Thursday night. Sri Lanka's response, he said, was on humanitarian grounds and focused on saving lives, after the vessel reported an engine fault. "No one deserves to die in this war. Every life is precious", he said.

Injured sailors from Iranian frigate *IRIS Dena* walk on hospital premises in Galle, Sri Lanka, on Thursday. REUTERS

Emphasising that Sri Lanka would continue to pursue a neutral foreign policy, he said the country was "hoping for the best and preparing for the worst," amid concerns over the possible impact of the war in West Asia on the global economy and people's livelihoods. After the U.S. and Israel launched an attack on Iran last week, Colombo called on "all concerned parties to exercise maximum restraint" and to de-escalate tensions. The government has so far not responded to the U.S. claim on Wednesday that its submarine attacked the Iranian frigate *IRIS Dena*.

News of the second Iranian vessel near Sri Lankan waters drew attention during a parliamentary debate earlier on Thursday. Flagging regional security, Leader of the Opposition Sajith Premadasa pointed to a second Iranian ship positioned close to the Colombo Port. In response, Cabinet spokesman and Minister Nalinda Jayatissa told Parliament that the vessel was in the country's Exclusive Economic Zone near the maritime boundary, and not in Sri Lanka's territorial waters. The government was "fully aware" of the situation, he said, adding that Mr. Dissanayake – also Minister of Defence – and the Security Council, were working on resolving the matter to minimise loss of life and safeguard regional peace.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

‘I’m Brian Bennett’

With 292 runs at a staggering average of 146 in the ICC T20 World Cup, the 22-year-old has made a name for himself; known for piercing gaps over clearing the ropes, the stoic Zimbabwe opener’s brand of batsmanship is as rare as a vinyl record in a world of digital music

Sankar Narayanan E.H.

B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

THE GIST

- Bennett’s growth has been exceptional and exponential. Just four years ago, he was swimming in the kids’ section of the cricket pool: the under-19 World Cup. But since being thrown in the deep end, Bennett has swam ashore with authority and poise
- The opener’s fingerprints on Zimbabwe’s triumphs are as unmistakable as the Milky Way in a desert night sky
- The 22-year-old averages 52.09 in Zimbabwe’s victories, a figure that plummets to 26.55 in the African team’s defeats

The gun bowler he is, Jasprit Bumrah has seen countless batters take that panicked, ill-fated sideward step from his line of fire.

Brian Bennett’s leg-side movement, though, felt different. Even as he set his base, exposing his stumps to one who makes a living out of uprooting them, the Zimbabwe opener seemed calm and secure. His actions were not out of desperation, nor was it because he ran out of options against the premier pacer.

It was exactly what he had planned, and as if he knew Bumrah was going to follow him with a sharp bouncer, Bennett produced a remarkable tennis-style flat-batted swat, dismissing the world’s best bowler for a majestic six over long-on. The maximum also marked his third half-century in the ICC T20 World Cup 2026. The Zimbabwe dugout had no qualms in showing its adulation, though even without the milestone, some of his peers and mentors would have been tempted to stand and applaud the sheer audacity of the shot.

Watch the ball closely

“Yeah, Bumrah was always going to be a tough bowler to face. [It was my] first time facing him. Obviously, he is a world-class bowler. So, my thought process was to just watch the ball as close as I can, and just let my body do the action. The ball was in my zone, and I just hit it,” Bennett said in the post-match press conference after his unbeaten 97 against India in Chennai.

The media interaction following that memorable innings revealed more than just the youngster’s technical know-how and sky-high ambitions; it also highlighted his likeable character, perfectly captured when he corrected a journalist who failed to recognise him with a measured, “I’m Brian Bennett.”

With 277 runs in just five outings, Bennett was making a name for himself on the world stage. His average sat at a staggering 277 – having been dismissed only once in the T20 World Cup till then. Even though this number came down to 146 after scoring a 13-ball 15 against South Africa in his last game, what he achieved in the tournament was almost unheard of for a T20 opener.

It’s one thing to bat through an innings in Test cricket, where strike rate is an insignificant column in the statistics page (maybe not for England’s Bazballers), but to do so in T20s – a format increasingly defined by fleeting cameos and high-risk hitting – Bennett’s brand of batsmanship is as rare as a vinyl record in a world of digital music.

When asked if he looked at himself as an anchor in Zimbabwe’s batting line-up, Bennett said: “[My job is to] give Zimbabwe a good start in the PowerPlay and then sort of just carry on that momentum throughout the middle overs with the likes of (Sikandar) Raza, the guys who can hit the big sixes and stuff,” Bennett said on February 26.

“I wouldn’t say it’s too much of an anchor role. I do go out there and play positive cricket and try to get runs at those higher strike rates. But the pitches in Sri Lanka were a bit different. So, maybe that lower strike rate came into play. I just try to do the simple things better.”

Stroke player

On his modus operandi to find the boundary, Bennett explained: “I don’t do much power hitting. I think of myself as more of a stroke player. I try to get into good positions, which enables me to hit those sixes. If I’m in a strong position and I can get my hands to the ball, that gives me the best chance to hit those sixes.”

Bennett’s returns justify his words. His 292 runs in this edition, second only to Pakistan’s Sahibzada Farhan (383), came at a strike rate of 134.56.

Known for piercing gaps over clearing the ropes, Bennett’s priorities are laid bare by the numbers: the Zimbabwean prodigy’s 32 fours in the T20 showpiece [along with Aiden Markram and Tim Seifert] are second only to Farhan’s 37, while Bennett’s seven maximums are the fewest among this edition’s top-14 run-scorers.

“If they (bowlers) miss [their mark], it’s got to go. But also, they are allowed to bowl good balls. I try to not get too ahead of myself and do something I shouldn’t be doing. Six overs are longer than you think. I don’t have the big biceps to hit over the top and get a six. But definitely, I like strokeplaying and hitting the gap even inside the PowerPlay,” Bennett had said in a video posted by the ICC on February 19.

And this method has worked extremely well for the 22-year-old. In fact, since Bennett made his T20I debut on December 7, 2023, no one has scored more runs in the format (1,888 runs in 58 innings) than him. His strike rate of 143.68, to go with an average of 36.30, is quite creditable for somebody who has been tasked to be the glue that holds the innings together.

“Brian Bennett is Brian Bennett. His role is just to bat as long as he can bat. While you may think I am being funny, but only people who understand Brian would know what I am talking about,” skipper Raza had said ahead of the Super Eight game against the West Indies in Mumbai.

‘Brian must bat’

“His role is to bat. For as long as he can. That’s it. And that means 20 overs, 15 overs, 18 overs – doesn’t matter. Brian must just bat,” Raza added.

Bennett’s fingerprints on Zimbabwe’s triumphs are as unmistakable as the Milky Way in a desert night sky. While his unbeaten half-centuries in Zimbabwe’s heists over Australia and Sri Lanka are recent examples, the overall data tells an even more definitive story: he averages 52.09 in Zimbabwe’s victories, a figure that plummets to 26.55 in the African team’s defeats. The correlation is simple: Zimbabwe wins when Bennett fires.

Bennett’s playing style is just as uncomplicated. And it’s not just him saying that. “He is one guy who does not make it complicated at all. That is a great quality. He doesn’t think. But it’s good. He brings simplicity, and because of that nature, nothing seems to faze or bother him,” Raza told ICC.

Zimbabwe fielding coach Stuart Matsikenyeri echoes it, saying Bennett is a “great student of the game.”

“He’s a sponge and he’s very hungry to learn. He does more listening than talking. He’s always looking to get better the next day. In the presser, he kept trying to say, ‘I just keep it simple.’ That is his character,” Matsikenyeri said in the mixed zone after the Super Eight game against India.

Exceptional and exponential

Bennett’s growth has been exceptional and exponential. Just four years ago, he was swimming in the kids’ section of the cricket pool: the under-19 World Cup. But since being thrown into the deep end, Bennett has swam ashore with authority and poise.

In his short career, he has already scored a Test ton against England in England, a fourth-innings half-century against Bangladesh, and an ODI hundred against Ireland.

Where does Bennett go from here now that he has proved his mettle against the *creme de la creme* of international cricket, that too in a World Cup?

“The sky’s the limit for Brian. He’s a very highly motivated youngster. It’s scary that he’s only 22. It’s exciting to see where he’s going to go. I wouldn’t put a bench on him because I think there are a lot of good things ahead of him,” Matsikenyeri added.

Even as he became the toast of the town during his breakthrough tournament, Bennett’s outlook on cricket and life remained centred on opportunity and growth. “The main thing I’ve learnt is that the sun is going to rise tomorrow. So, no matter what happens today, you’ve always got another opportunity tomorrow to try and do better,” Bennett told the ICC.

The stoic batter seems to live by the timeless advice found in H. Jackson Brown Jr.’s *Life’s Little Instruction Book*: ‘The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today.’

If the T20 World Cup was any indication, the future is bright for Bennett and Zimbabwe.

The Bennett dossier

MOST T20I RUNS SINCE BENNETT’S DEBUT (DEC. 7, 2023)

Player	Span	Mat	Inns	Runs	RR (runs per six balls faced)	Ave	Strike rate	BpD (balls per dismissal)	Dot%	Bnd%
Brian Bennett (Zim)	2023-2026	58	58	1888	8.62	36.30	143.68	25.2	37.3	20.77
Pathum Nissanka (SL)	2024-2026	49	49	1550	8.61	35.22	143.65	24.5	36.8	20.38
Phil Salt (Eng)	2023-2026	41	41	1409	10.21	39.13	170.16	23.0	31.2	25.00
Abhishek Sharma (Ind)	2024-2026	44	44	1386	11.32	34.65	188.82	18.3	35.4	30.79
Sikandar Raza (Zim)	2023-2026	55	55	1380	8.46	29.36	141.10	20.8	35.9	18.20

HOW BENNETT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO ZIMBABWE’S CAUSE

Result	Span	Mat	Inns	Runs	RR	Ave
Won	2023-2026	24	24	1094	9.11	52.09
Lost	2023-2026	32	32	770	8.10	26.55
No Result	2025-2025	2	2	24	6.00	12.00

BENNETT’S 2026 T20 WORLD CUP

Opponent	Inns No.	Runs	BF	4s	6s	Dots
Oman	2	48*	36	7	0	11
Australia	1	64*	56	7	0	22
Sri Lanka	2	63*	48	8	0	12
West Indies	2	5	5	1	0	3
India	2	97*	59	8	6	21
South Africa	1	15	13	1	1	8
Total	-	292	217	32	7	77

‘File criminal case against those who put up illegal advertisements’

GBA Chief Commissioner directs all five corporations to appoint officers from legal cell in this regard

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

M. Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), directed all five corporations to appoint officers from the legal cell to initiate criminal cases against those putting up illegal advertisements, following several complaints at the West Corporation public meeting in Malleswaram on Thursday.

Residents of the West City Corporation highlighted issues of animal cruelty and footpath encroachments, e-Khata, declining footpath connectivity, illegal advertisements, and paused ward committee meetings.

Over 100 citizens submitted their complaints to the GBA Chief Commissioner and requested resolution.

At least four persons raised issues regarding ward committee meetings not being held since September, when the BBMP was dissolved and the GBA was formed. The same issue was highlighted in the public meeting held at the East City Corporation. About 200 residents of Hemmigepura have raised issues related to e-Khata. Mr. Rao said the problem was related to technical aspects and would be resolved soon. Mr. Rao said that several complaints related to animal cruelty and dog-feeding were raised by citizens.

Residents of West City Corporation highlighted issues of animal cruelty and footpath encroachments, e-Khata, illegal advertisements, etc. FILE PHOTO

At the meeting, people raised issues regarding ward committee meetings not being held since September

In the last few months, even the police have taken up several complaints related to missing stray dogs. Mr. Rao directed officials to attend to the issue immediately. Further, the absence of footpaths around metro stations and parking in residential areas were raised.

Nakul, a resident of Gorguntepalya, drew the commissioner’s attention to several incidents of injuries from accidents near the Gorguntepalya Metro Station.

“There is no footpath at all to reach the metro station. We need to walk on the road, and vehicles are driven rashly during peak hours, increasing the risk of accidents. There have been incidents already,” Mr. Nakul told *The Hindu*.

Anand Kumar, a resident of Laggere, requested the commissioner to open the swimming pool and playground in their area, which have not been opened to the public despite work being completed nearly two years ago. He was referring to Dr. Rajkumar Park, Dr. Vishnuvardhan Playground, and a swimming pool constructed on the same premises in Laggere.

Satish Karanth, a resident of Hosakerehalli, complained that the road connecting Kencehenahalli Main Road and Kere Kodi Road, which has been identified as a sub-arterial road, has not been developed despite tenders being called two years ago. “They have completed half of the work and stopped. Even in the tender, it was mentioned that the road has to be developed completely, which means they had to mill the road and relay it. But now, they have just put a layer above the existing asphalt,” he said.

FCs only at designated RTO locations geo-fenced through mVahan app

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Transport Department has implemented a geofencing-based mVahan Fitness mobile application across all 66 Regional Transport Office (RTO) offices in the State to bring transparency and curb irregularities in the issuance of Fitness Certificates (FCs) for commercial vehicles.

Minister for Transport Ramalinga Reddy said the system has been introduced to prevent malpractices that were earlier reported in the process of issuing FCs for registered commercial (transport) vehicles operating in the State. Karnataka has over 30 lakh registered commercial vehicles in operation.

There have been frequent allegations about lack of uniformity in the FC process, prompting the department to adopt technological measures. Recently, the HSR Layout police booked a retired Senior Motor Vehicle Inspector, Nisar Ahmed, for allegedly issuing over 10,000 FCs without conducting mandatory physical inspections. The alleged irregularity occurred between August 1, 2025, and January 31, 2026, when Ahmed was serving as motor vehicle inspector. He was booked after conducting a preliminary inquiry, which also revealed that certificates had been issued to 41 vehicles registered in Gujarat.

Minister for Transport Ramalinga Reddy says the system has been introduced to prevent malpractices. FILE PHOTO

The new system, developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), mandates vehicle inspections be carried out only at designated locations identified for each RTO office. These locations have been geo-fenced through the application to ensure that inspections take place only within authorised areas.

In a statement, the transport department said the vehicles must physically arrive at the designated inspection locations before examinations are conducted in accordance with the Motor Vehicles Act and relevant rules. During inspection, officials are required to capture at least six photographs of the vehicle through the application, and the fitness certificate will be issued only after the inspection details are approved in the system.

It said that issuing fitness certificates outside the designated geo-fenced inspection locations will not be possible under the new system.

31 students test positive for drug abuse during anti-drug drive in West Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As part of a Statewide crackdown on drug abuse among youth, the Bengaluru City Police on Wednesday conducted large-scale drug screening across educational institutions in Vijayanagar Sub-Division under the West Division, with 31 students reportedly testing positive for substance abuse.

More than 1,200 students were subjected to urine sample collection, of which 585 samples were randomly tested. Officials confirmed that 31 samples returned positive for drug consumption. The police said students who tested positive would be provided counselling by mental health professionals and necessary medical support. Authorities assured that the identities and family details of those tested positive would be kept confidential.

‘Sanmitra’ initiative

The inspections were carried out under the “Sanmitra” initiative, a reformative programme introduced on the directions of M.A. Saleem, Director-General and Inspector-General of Police, to build a drug-free society.

Reformative approach

The officials said that the “Sanmitra” initiative adopts a compassionate and reformative approach, focusing on guidance and rehabilitation rather than punitive action, with dedicated police personnel assigned to monitor and support individuals undergoing de-addiction.

The drive led by Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Yatheesh N. conducted N-MASS (Narcotics Monitoring, Assistance and Screening System) checks on Wednesday in six educational institutions and two hostels after obtaining consent and no-objection certificates from the respective managements.

The operation was carried out with the support of doctors, technicians and staff from nearby hospitals.

Tranquil waters

GOLDEN HUE: Fishermen glide through the soft light across Hubballi's Unkal Lake at sunrise. K. MURALI KUMAR

IISc and Pratiksha Trust launch moonshot project on brain co-processors

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) on Wednesday launched a moonshot project to develop brain co-processors that combine neuromorphic hardware and AI algorithms to enhance or restore brain function.

The project is funded by the Pratiksha Trust, founded by Senapathy ‘Kris’ Gopalakrishnan and Sudha Gopalakrishnan.

“India is emerging as a global leader in neuroscience by uniting foundational research with clinical applications through collaborative, international partnerships. Supported significantly by the Pratiksha Trust, the Brain Co-Processors Moonshot Project accelerates the development of innovative medical technologies. Ultimately, these innovations aim to provide world-class transformative neurological treatments to the global population,” said Mr. Gopalakrishnan.

The moonshot project is a multidisciplinary endeavour that evolved from a pilot project seeded by IISc’s Brain, Computation and Data Science initiative- a cross-departmental programme involving more than 20 faculty members- which is also supported by the Pratiksha Trust.

Brain co-processors are an emerging technology aimed at enhancing the human brain’s natural abilities in ways relevant to real-life situations. FILE PHOTO

The primary goal of the moonshot project is to develop both implantable and non-invasive brain co-processors that can decode brain activity from neural recordings, process it with an AI algorithm, and re-encode signals back into the brain via neural stimulation or neurofeedback. Such co-processors will be deployed towards cognitive rehabilitation of stroke survivors, to restore critical functions such as goal-directed reach and grasp abilities.

Emerging tech

Brain co-processors are an emerging technology aimed at enhancing the human brain’s natural abilities in ways relevant to real-life situations.

Achieving this requires a deep understanding of how the brain solves problems. The project aims to build an AI-powered, closed-loop device that connects to different parts of the brain in order to help restore smooth, coordinated movement.

“Crucially, the project seeks to create capacity and impact in India by indigenising the development of implants, hardware, and AI stacks that can work with clinical infrastructure in low-resource settings, by building India-specific databases of stereo EEG and ECoG recordings, and by creating digital public good via open-source AI, datasets, and visualisation tools,” IISc said.

In the first phase, the project team seeks to develop, validate, and refine a non-invasive neural co-processor that can provide sensorimotor feedback for goal-directed reaching in stroke survivors, while also doing the groundwork, in parallel, for an invasive co-processor implant.

In the second phase, the goal is to develop an embedded, minimally invasive co-processor to restore sensorimotor coordination and goal-directed reaching in individuals with chronic, multi-domain deficits following middle cerebral artery (MCA) stroke.

The IISc team will work with medical professionals and researchers across the country to clinically validate and deploy these co-processors in line with national and international standards and guidelines. They will incorporate feedback from neurologists, therapists, patients, and caregivers throughout the development process, and will also work closely with collaborators at research institutions in India and worldwide.

After a stroke

“By combining advanced neural recording, AI-driven inference, closed-loop stimulation, and personalised rehabilitation protocols, this project will lay the foundation for a first-of-its-kind brain co-processor that restores complex sensorimotor function after stroke,” IISc added.

Experts emphasise need to bridge engineering, technology and brain sciences

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Experts at an international conference on Clinical Neuropsychology and Cognitive Neuroscience (I-CNCNC 2026) at NIMHANS on Thursday emphasised the urgent need to bridge engineering, technology and biological sciences to advance research in brain health and cognitive sciences.

Better understanding

Speaking at the inauguration of the conference, Subrata Rakshit, former Director-General (Technology Management) at the Defence Research and Development Organisation, stressed the importance of integrating engineering, artificial intelligence and biological sciences to better understand brain functions such as memory, attention, cognition and neuroplasticity.

He noted that such interdisciplinary collaboration could play a key role in shaping future educational technologies and improving learning systems by promoting more active and adaptive learning environments.

Cognitive neuroscience

The conference, organised by Department of Clinical Psychology, was inaugurated by Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, who highlighted the role of cognitive neuroscience and multidisciplinary research in strengthening mental health care systems.

He flagged the growing public health concerns linked to excessive social media use and said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has initiated discussions with experts on ways to regulate its overuse among young people.

NIMHANS Director Pratima Murthy spoke about the institute’s interdisciplinary legacy and the importance of holistic neuropsychological practices. She said neuropsychology has an important role not only in neurological conditions but also in psychiatric disorders such as schizophrenia, obsessive-compulsive disorder and behavioural addictions related to social media.

She highlighted the potential of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, in strengthening diagnosis and treatment across various mental health and neurological conditions.

Conference chairperson Jamuna Rajeswaran, professor and head of the Department of Clinical Psychology at NIMHANS, spoke about the evolving academic landscape in neuroscience and its expanding applications across clinics, communities, schools and rehabilitation settings.

The three-day conference, being held from March 5 to 7, has brought together around 600 participants from India and several other countries, including mental health professionals, neuropsychologists, neuroscientists and psychology students.

Awareness drive: Youngsters taking part in an anti-tobacco campaign rally organised in Karnataka. The illegal sale of oral nicotine pouches has become a major concern. K. MURALI KUMAR

As nicotine pouches spread, calls for regulations, ban get louder

Nicotine pouches are highly addictive and unsafe, say experts, emphasising that they are not an approved aid for smoking cessation; Tamil Nadu's Directorate of Drugs Control has issued a public alert and served show-cause notices to dealers for illegally selling these products online; activists are calling for a ban

Serena Josephine M.

Oral nicotine pouches are emerging as the latest cause of concern for doctors and anti-tobacco activists. Warning that these product are highly addictive and could cause harmful effects, calls for regulations and bans are now being made. Tamil Nadu's Directorate of Drugs Control (DDC) recently issued a public alert and served show-cause notices to dealers for illegally selling these products online.

An online search showed that nicotine pouches are available for sale on at least three platforms, including an e-commerce site. Sold under various brands, these pouches come in multiple flavours and quantities.

Not approved

In the public alert, the DDC had warned against the purchase, sale and consumption of oral nicotine pouches as they are not approved in the country, and their safety, efficacy and quality were not established. It advised the public to refrain from using such nicotine pouches as an aid for smoking cessation, gutka and tobacco chewing cessation or for treating withdrawal symptoms of nicotine. The safety, efficacy and quality of such nicotine pouches are not yet established. These products directly deliver pharmacologically active substances to the bloodstream through buccal absorption and uncontrolled consumption of nicotine may result in worsened health hazards due to increased total nicotine intake.

Manufacturers, retailers, including online marketplace operators, distributors, hospitals, and pharmacies in the State are also directed to refrain from manufacturing, stocking, exhibiting for sale and offering for sale (including through online portals), such unapproved oral nicotine pouches, it said.

What's in them

According to the United States' Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention, nicotine pouches are small microfiber pouches that contain a powder made of nicotine, flavourings, and other ingredients. People typically put pouches between their lips and gum. The powder dissolves in the mouth without requiring spitting, and nicotine is absorbed through the gums and lining of the mouth. Stating that nicotine is a highly addictive chemical that is especially dangerous for the youth, young adults and pregnant women, the CDC said that there are no safe tobacco products, including nicotine pouches. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has not approved nicotine pouches as a smoking cessation aid, it said.

The dangers

S. Cyril Alexander, State convenor, Tamil Nadu Peoples' Forum for Tobacco Control, said that nicotine pouches are dangerous as they are highly addictive. "These products are being made attractive for people. Usually, children aged below 18, will become easily addicted to such products but this nicotine pouch is designed to attract even adults because of the flavours and form. We conducted checks across Tamil Nadu to see if there were retail sales of nicotine pouches, but so far, none have been found. However, these products are being sold in some States and remain easily available online. There are more than 100 online portals that sell nicotine pouches" he said.

Cyber crime cells should take immediate measures to curb online platforms selling nicotine pouches, while the Centre and States should bring in a complete ban, says expert

Nicotine pouches are being purchased online and are easily accessible. ISTOCKPHOTO

Echoing these concerns, Surendran Veeraiah, professor and head, department of psycho-oncology and Resource Centre for Tobacco Control, Cancer Institute (WIA), Chennai, said, "Nicotine pouches are being purchased online and are easily accessible. Nicotine is an addictive substance. The illegal sale of oral nicotine pouches has become a major concern for us." Being free from tobacco does not mean that nicotine pouches are harmless, he said, adding: "It has cardiovascular risks and could cause gum issues. Enforcement is crucial. With the Drugs Control Directorate issuing an alert, the cyber crime cell should be more vigilant. We need regulations, and are aiming at a total ban."

Stringent regulations called for

Mr. Alexander pointed out that T.N.'s Drugs Control Directorate has set an example to the country by initiating proceedings against dealers recently. "No other State has taken such action. Both the Centre and States should implement a complete ban on nicotine pouches. A State-specific ban will be effective. For this, T.N. should bring in an amendment to its Public Health Act to implement the ban so that we can prevent the entry of these products in the future," emphasised.

He added that nicotine is not only derived from tobacco as there is also synthetic nicotine. "There is every chance that industries could manipulate products, and so, such substances, in any form, should be banned. Two mg nicotine tablets and patches are allowed for nicotine replacement therapy. However, these pouches are available up to 50 mg. This is dangerous, as in the future, e-cigarettes, which India has already banned, will replace cigarette smoking, and nicotine pouches will replace chewable tobacco. Cyber crime cells should take immediate measures to curb online platforms selling nicotine pouches, while the Centre and States should bring in a complete ban," he said.

(serena.m@thehindu.co.in)

Prevention of diabetes before birth offers hope for healthy future

V. Seshiah
C. Anjalakshi
Pikee Saxena

India stands at a defining public health crossroads. With 101 million people living with diabetes and another 136 million classified as prediabetic, the country carries one of the heaviest burdens of metabolic disease in the world.

The critical intervention point may not lie in adulthood, adolescence, or even childhood. It may lie in the earliest weeks of pregnancy.

Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM), defined as glucose intolerance first detected during pregnancy, affects nearly one in five pregnancies globally. Though often perceived as transient, its implications are enduring. Women with GDM face a significantly increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes later in life. More concerning is the risk passed on to their children.

The concept of "foetal programming" – often linked to the foetal origins hypothesis – explains how adverse metabolic conditions in utero can permanently alter a child's physiology. When a foetus is exposed to the mother's high blood sugar, it responds by increasing insulin production. This early metabolic adaptation predisposes the child to obesity, insulin resistance, and diabetes in adulthood.

In effect, diabetes risk is not merely inherited genetically; it is metabolically programmed.

Why timing matters

Emerging evidence, including analyses supported by the United States' National Institutes of Health, suggests that foetal pancreatic beta cells begin insulin secretion around the 11th week of gestation. If maternal blood glucose levels are elevated before this period, foetal hyperinsulinaemia may become established – setting in motion long-term metabolic consequences.

This biological insight has profound clinical implications. Conventional screening for gestational diabetes typically occurs in the second trimester. By then, foetal programming may already have occurred. A shift in strategy is therefore warranted: screening and intervention must occur in the first trimester – ideally by the 8th week of pregnancy.

A simple two-hour postprandial blood glucose (PPBG) test at eight weeks of pregnancy could serve as an early warning marker. If levels exceed 110 mg/dL, the condition may be classified as Early Gestational Glucose Intolerance (EGGI) – a pre-GDM stage.

Crucially, this creates a narrow but actionable window of approximately two weeks to normalise maternal glucose levels before the 10th week of gestation. Medical nutrition therapy, lifestyle modification, and, where appropriate, low-dose metformin under supervision can help achieve a target PPBG below 110 mg/dL. Such an approach is not technology-intensive. It does not rely on expensive biomarkers. It is feasible even within district hospitals and primary health systems, provided early antenatal registration becomes universal.

Recent multicentre work conducted between 2022 and 2024 at Madras Medical College and Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi, has provided supportive evidence for early prediction and intervention. The findings suggest that first-trimester identification of elevated postprandial glucose can help reduce progression to overt GDM.

A national policy mandating universal early pregnancy glucose screening could represent a similarly transformative intervention.

Three measures merit consideration: Preconception counselling to optimise metabolic health, mandatory antenatal registration by eight weeks, and universal first-trimester postprandial glucose testing.

The long-term dividends could extend beyond reducing GDM incidence. By interrupting intergenerational metabolic transmission, India could reduce future diabetes prevalence, cardiovascular disease burden, and associated healthcare expenditure.

(Dr. V. Seshiah is founder and patron of the Diabetes in Pregnancy Study Group India, vseshiah@gmail.com; Dr. Anjalakshi C. is a senior consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology, dranjalakshi@gmail.com, Dr. Pikee Saxena, is director-professor, department of obstetrics and gynaecology, Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi. pikeesaxena@gmail.com)

THE HEALTH QUIZ

Please send in your answers to health@thehindu.co.in

The World Health Organization marked World Hearing Day on March 3 with the theme. Here is a quiz testing your knowledge of hearing health.

Athira Elssa Johnson

QUESTION 1
Repeated untreated middle ear infections in childhood can lead to long-term hearing problems. True or False

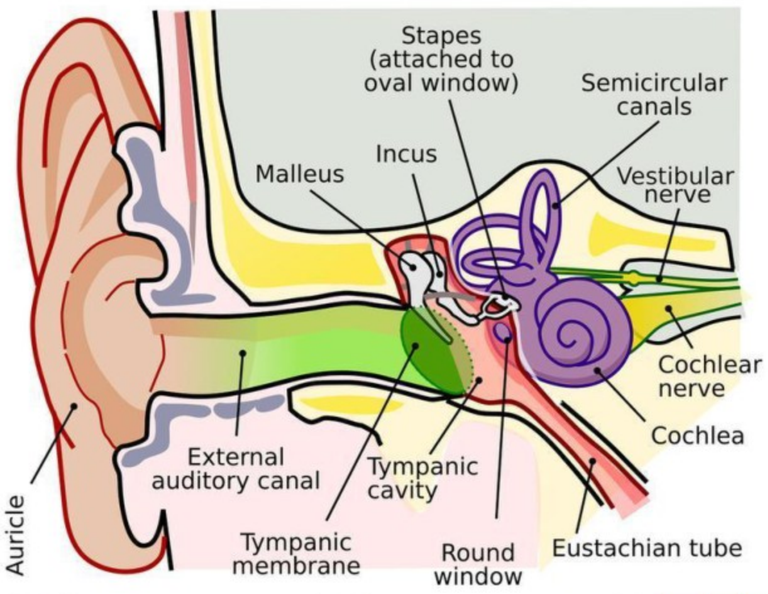
QUESTION 2
A persistent ringing or buzzing sound in the ears without an external source is called _____.

QUESTION 3
What is the routine test used to check a person's hearing ability called?

QUESTION 4
Name one early sign that may suggest a child has hearing difficulty.

QUESTION 5
Hearing loss that develops after long-term exposure to loud sounds at work, at events, or through personal audio devices is called _____ hearing loss.

Answers to previous edition's quiz:
1. What is the human brain primarily made of? **Ans: Fat** 2. In your spinal cord, which matter is on the outside, and which is inside? **Ans: White matter outside, grey matter inside** 3. True or False: Walnuts are good for brain health **Ans: True 4. Which daily hygiene ritual is believed to reduce the risk of stroke? Ans: Flossing** 5. Looking after which of your organs is one of the most effective ways to reduce the risk of dementia? **Ans: Heart** 6. how many neurons the brain is believed to have? **Ans: Between 80 and 90 billion** 7. True or False: The brain's ability to change stops with age. **Ans: False** Visual: identify the part of the brain and what it does **Ans: Cerebellum and It coordinates voluntary muscle movements**
Winners: Saravanan Chennappan | Tamal Biswas | Piyali Tuli



Visual question: Injury to which inner ear structure would most directly impair the ear's ability to convert sound vibrations into electrical signals that are transmitted to the brain? WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

वस्त्र मंत्रालय MINISTRY OF TEXTILES | PM MITRA | Department of Textiles Government of Tamil Nadu | Guidance TamilNadu

PM MITRA PARK

VIRUDHUNAGAR, TAMIL NADU

An exclusive green field cluster for integrated textile and apparel manufacturing

SECOND CYCLE OF

INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR INDUSTRIAL LAND ALLOTMENT NOW

Starts on 6th March 2026 (10.00 am) | Closes on 26th March 2026 (06.00 pm)

visit and apply on the website : https://sipcotweb.tn.gov.in/

Eligible Investors are requested to Apply Online

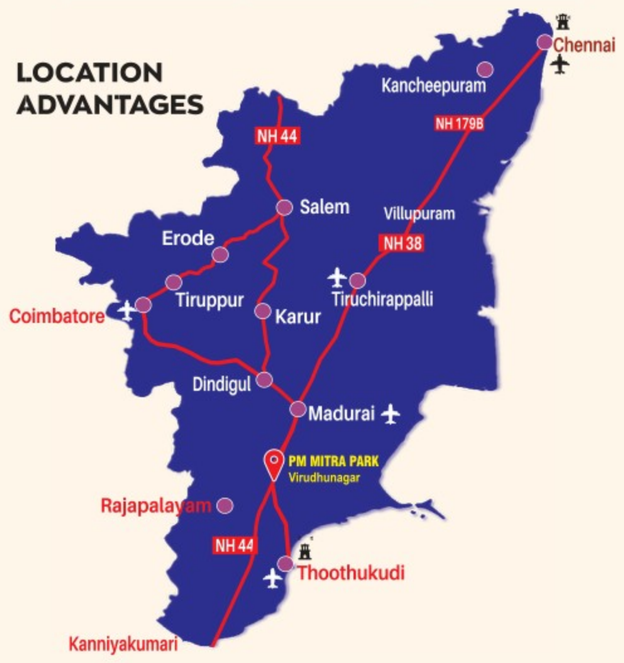
WHY TO INVEST

- **Clear Land Title** — 99 years Lease
- **Statutory Approvals** — Environmental Clearance obtained, DTCP Approved Layout
- **Reliable** — Water & Power Supply
- **Dedicated** — CETP & STP
- **Electrical Substation** — Dedicated Substation within the Park
- **Plug and Play Infrastructure** — Comprehensive Plug & Play and Warehouse facilities
- **Strategic Location** — Thoothukudi Port (100 km) and Madurai Airport (50 km)
- **Truck Parking Facility**
- **Underground Utility Cables**

- TOTAL EXTENT - 1052 Acre
- PROJECT COST - 1894 Crore
- EXPECTED EMPLOYMENT - 1 Lakh

Allotment Plot	Available for Allotment in Acre	Plot Cost (Rs.)
Industrial Plots	377.87	55,32,120/- per Acre

LOCATION ADVANTAGES



STATE OF ART INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES

Specialized Tech & Innovation Facilities
- Skill Development Centre
- Centre of Excellence
- Testing Lab
- Product Display & Exhibition Centre

Social Infrastructure
- Worker's Hostel
- Health Centre
- Playground
- Creche Facility

Environmental Infrastructure
- Common Effluent Treatment Plant with ZLD
- Effluent Distribution Network
- Integration of Renewable energy in buildings
- Solid & Liquid Waste Management
- Treated Water Distribution Network
- Steam Boiler
- Green Power

Proximity to Textile Clusters along Coimbatore - Thoothukudi Industrial corridor
- Rajapalayam
- Karur
- Tiruppur
- Virudhunagar
- Erode
- Coimbatore
- Madurai
- Salem
- Dindigul

To apply log on to Portal :

STATE INDUSTRIES PROMOTION CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU LIMITED (SIPCOT)
19-A RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHY ROAD
EGMORE, CHENNAI - 600 008.
https://sipcotweb.tn.gov.in/

DIPR/ 271 /DISPLAY/2026

TV9 ಕನ್ನಡ

COME UPDATE YOUR HOME & INTERIORS!

TV9 NETWORK

HOME FURNITURE EXPO

SALE • OFFERS • DISCOUNTS

LOCATE US

6 | 7 | 8 MARCH 2026

TRIPURAVASINI PALACE GROUND

NEAR MEKHRI CIRCLE, BENGALURU

OPENS TODAY
10.00 AM TO 8.30 PM

BIGGEST SAVING SALE

- LIVING ROOM SET • DINING SET • BEDROOM SET • HOME DECOR PRODUCTS • ARTIFACTS • OUTDOOR FURNITURE
- RECLINER SOFA SETS • INDONESIA FURNITURE • CARPET & CUSHIONS • MASSAGE CHAIR • CURTAINS & MUCH MORE...

www.iadsandevents.com | exhibitions_iadsnevents | iadsnevents | **ENTRY FREE** | +91 93425 77908

AN EVENT BY iads & events COMPLETE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE

Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao Road, Nagarabhavi, Bangalore - 560 072. India

ISEC invites Short Term Tender from reputed authorised vendors for Supply of Desktop Computers. For more details visit our website: **www.isec.ac.in.** last date for submitting tender is **20th March 2026.**

DIPR/CP/6039/SHIRDI SAI/2025-26

Sd/-
REGISTRAR

भारतीय खाद्य निगम
Food Corporation of India

Regional Office, Bengaluru no. 10, East end main road, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560041 Email: gmka.fci@gov.in

RO KA-34.0025.0/1/2025-SLS-RO KA **Date: 03.03.2026**

NOTICE

FCI invites bids from Traders /Empanelled bulk buyers/ Manufacturers of rice products registered in **ANY STATE for sale of Broken Rice ONLY** lying at different mill premises under OMSS(D) through e- auctions conducted by FCI **PUNJAB, HARYANA & ANDHRA PRADESH Regions** at Reserve Price of Rs.2320/- per quintal (Rupees Two thousand three hundred twenty only) for all crop year plus applicable taxes.

Interested parties can go through the MTF being published on every Friday in FCI website of concerned Regions **(https://fci.gov.in/)** and M-junction services limited portal **(https://valuejunction.in/fci/)** for participation.

General Manager (Karnataka)
FCI, Regional Office, Bangalore

CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED

(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Tamil Nadu)
(ISO 9001:2015 AND ISO 14001:2015 CERTIFIED)
METROS, ANNA SALAI, NANDANAM, CHENNAI - 600 035.

E-Tender Notice

CMRL invites bids through open tendering on CPP Portal (https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app) from eligible firms who fulfill the qualification criteria as mentioned in the tender document under the Single Stage Two Cover (Technical & Financial) system for the work mentioned below:

Tender No: CMRL/CP/TDR-66-CON/2026 "Construction of Property Development Buildings Near Thirumangalam Metro Station along the Viaduct in open land parcels including Civil, Architectural Finishes, Plumbing, E&M, VAC, Lifts and all associated works".

i) Bid Document available from: 11/03/2026
ii) Deadline for Bid submission: 07/04/2026 up-to 15:00 Hrs.

For Notice Inviting Tender (NIT), please visit: www.chennaimetrorail.org.

Any Corrigendum/Addendum to this publication, if any, would appear only in the CPP Portal and will not be published through newspapers

Sd/-
For Managing Director
Director (Projects)
Chennai Metro Rail Limited

DIPR/1611/TENDER/2026

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING DEPARTMENT
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE

Mahatma Gandhi Complex, Market Yard, Yeshwanthpura, Bengaluru - 560022. Phone No: 080-23472850 / 23371695
E-mail: apmcbangalore22@gmail.com

No: APMC/Bng/Dev/5338/2025-26 **Date: 05-03-2026**

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Agriculture Produce Market Committee, Yeshwanthpura, Bengaluru invites e-Tender from eligible Companies for Development of 50 TPD Waste to Bio-Methanation Plant and Operation and Maintenance on PPP Basis in the Dasanpura Sub Market Yard, Bengaluru. Interested Companies should submit their Tenders through the Karnataka Government e-Procurement Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Last Date for Submission of Tender: **07-04-2026 upto 5.30 PM.**

Indent No: APMC/2025-26/PM/WORK_INDENT887

Sd/- Secretary
APMC, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/6020/Adverto/2025-26

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN) (NIEPMD)

(Dept. Of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India)
Muttukadu, East Coast Road, Kovalam (P.O), Chennai - 603 112. Tamil Nadu – India.
Phone: 044 – 27472046, 27472113, 27472423
www.niepmd.nic.in. Email: niepmd@gov.in, director@niepmd.tn.nic.in
~ (Re-Accredited by NAAC B+2nd Cycle)~ ~ ISO 9001:2015~

MANPOWER ENGAGEMENT NOTIFICATION (TEMPORARY) NO. 02/2026
Walk in Interview (ONLINE APPLICATION ONLY)

NIEPMD invites Online Applications (Walk-in Interview) from eligible Indian Nationals for the post of Sr.consultant on contract basis at NIEPMD(D), NBER Chennai. The Walk-in-interview will be held on 12.03.2026. The aspiring applicants fulfilling the eligibility criteria in all respect can submit their application through online mode. The online registration of application is made available on NIEPMD(D) website, Chennai official link i.e. **https://niepmd.nic.in/notice-category/recruitments** For all other details, terms and conditions, please log on to the website **www.niepmd.nic.in**

Sd/-
DIRECTOR

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY, (UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)

3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court, the Special Officer & Competent Authority is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'.
The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

Short description of the Immovable Property (SPLOCA/AUC(2)/CR/05/2025-26)

Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004. and Hon'ble High Court Of Karnataka has cleared the title (Khata stands in the name of Competent Authority and Auctioning Authority)

Sl. No.	DETAILS OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY (Clear Title by Court in order No. MISC No. 691/2019)	Minimum Bid Price (Rs)	EMD (Rs)	Bid Increase Value (Rs)
1.	# 803/18/25, PID No. 58-36-25, 36th 'G' Cross, 4th 'T' Block, Jayanagara Extension, Ward No. 168 (580 Jayanagar), Bangalore. East to West 40 ft North to South 50 ft Total measuring 2000 Sq.ft Location: https://maps.app.goo.gl/31xgrCq2KvgTijN66 Latitude and Longitude: 12°55'22.0"N 77°35'27.6"E			
(a)	Ground Floor, Flat No.GF-01, UDS-666.66, SBA-1570 Sq.ft	1,80,50,000/-	18,05,000/-	1,81,000/-
(b)	1st Floor, Flat No. FF-102, UDS-666.66, SBA-1570 Sq.ft	1,82,40,000/-	18,24,000/-	1,83,000/-
(c)	2nd Floor, Flat No. SF-103, UDS-666.66, SBA-1570 Sq.ft	1,84,30,000/-	18,43,000/-	1,85,000/-

Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place	Date of Inspection & time	Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission	Date & Time of E Auction
09th March 2026, 3 pm to 4 pm Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Tower, Bengaluru-01	10th March 2026 02:00pm to 05:00pm	16th March 2026 Before 5pm	18th March 2026 11 am to 1 pm

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: splocaeauction@gmail.com or Contact Mob. No 9945515174.

Date: 02-03-2026
Place: Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/6032/Zen/2025-26

Sd/-
Special Officer & Competent Authority
(Under KPIDFE –IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY, (UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)

3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court, the Special Officer & Competent Authority is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'.
The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

Short description of the Immovable Property (SPLOCA/AUC(2)/CR/09/2025-26)

Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004. and Hon'ble High Court Of Karnataka has cleared the title (Khata stands in the name of Competent Authority and Auctioning Authority)

Sl. No.	DETAILS OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY (Clear Title by Court in order No. MISC No. 706/2019)	Minimum Bid Price (Rs)	EMD (Rs)	Bid Increase Value (Rs)
1.	Site No 640, BBMP Khata No. 843/640, HBR layout, 1st Stage, 3rd Block, now Numbered as 640, HBR layout, 1 to 5th block And HBR 2nd Stage, ward No. 24, BDA Layout, Bengaluru. East to West 40 & North to South 60 ft Total measuring 2400 sq.ft. Location: https://maps.app.goo.gl/vjye83jZnVB2zAA69			
(a)	Ground Floor, Flat No. GF-01, UDS-480, SBA-2027 sq.ft	1,54,86,900/-	15,49,000/-	1,55,000/-
(b)	1st Floor, Flat No. FF-01, UDS-480, SBA-2027 sq.ft	1,56,41,750/-	15,65,000/-	1,57,000/-
(c)	2nd Floor, Flat No. SF-01, UDS-480, SBA-2027 sq.ft	1,57,96,600/-	15,80,000/-	1,58,000/-
(d)	3rd Floor, Flat No. TF-01, UDS-480, SBA-2027 sq.ft	1,55,63,850/-	15,57,000/-	1,56,000/-
(e)	4th Floor, Flat No. FRF-01, UDS-480, SBA-2027 sq.ft	1,55,63,850/-	15,57,000/-	1,56,000/-

Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place	Date of Inspection & time	Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission	Date & Time of E Auction
09th March 2026, 3 pm to 4 pm Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Tower, Bengaluru-01	12th March 2026 11:00am to 01:00pm	16th March 2026 Before 5pm	18th March 2026 11 am to 1 pm

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: **splocaeauction@gmail.com** or Contact Mob. No 9945515174.

Date: 02-03-2026
Place: Bengaluru

DIPR/CP6029 /Zen/2025-26

Sd/-
Special Officer & Competent Authority
(Under KPIDFE –IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Nominal Gross State Domestic Product of Maharashtra

46.22 in ₹ lakh crore. Maharashtra's economy is the country's largest with a nominal GSDP estimated at ₹46.22 lakh crore in 2024-25, which is expected to grow to ₹51 lakh crore as per the Economic Survey 2025-26 tabled in the Assembly. Maharashtra accounts for the highest share of about 14% in India's nominal GDP, it said. PTI

Number of seafarers and passengers stuck in the Gulf

35,000 Since war erupted on Saturday, the UN's International Maritime Organisation has recorded seven incidents involving ships in the region that have resulted in two deaths and another seven people wounded. They said that around 20,000 seafarers and 15,000 cruise ship passengers are stuck in the Gulf. AFP

Motorists booked for drunk driving during Holi in Delhi

1,200 Delhi Traffic Police booked more than 1,200 motorists for drunk driving during a special enforcement drive on Holi, with the highest number of such violations reported from the western range, an official said on Thursday. According to data, a total of 3,725 were penalised for other traffic violations. PTI

Number of new electric sub-stations to be built by A.P.

200 Andhra Pradesh Energy Minister G. Ravi Kumar said the State government is spending ₹6,000 crore to build new electric sub-stations. The Minister said the initiative includes 200 sub-stations in places experiencing excess power load. 33/11 KV sub-stations are being sanctioned across the State where the demand is high, he added. PTI

Income declared by the ruling BJP in FY2024-25

6,769.14 in ₹ cr. The BJP declared an income of ₹6,769.14 crore in FY 2024-25, the highest among national parties, while the Congress was a distant second, declaring an income of around ₹918.28 crore, said a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu X.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

The legality of U.S.-Israel strikes on Iran

U.S., Israel launch strikes on Iran as a 'pre-emptive' response to an imminent threat, raising questions about the legality of the use of force under the UN Charter; missile strike on a girls' primary school raises concerns over violations of International Humanitarian Law, particularly the principles of distinction, proportionality, precaution

LETTER & SPIRIT

Kartikey Singh

As the U.S. and Israel launched coordinated strikes across Iran, reports have surfaced that a missile had hit a girls' primary school in the southern city of Minab, killing around 150 people and injuring nearly 100. Many of the victims are believed to be schoolchildren. UNESCO has condemned this as a grave violation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), or the 'laws of war', which is designed to limit the human suffering caused during 'armed conflict' by imposing restrictions on the 'means' and 'methods' of warfare. Attacks on civilian objects such as schools and hospitals, and on civilians, especially children, are prohibited under IHL.

Amid ruins: People and rescue workers search through debris following an Israeli strike on a school in Minab, Iran, on February 28. REUTERS

Legal justification

On February 28, Israel and the U.S. launched strikes on Iran, framing the operation as a 'pre-emptive' response to what they described as an imminent threat. Importantly, the UN Charter was created in 1945 following the devastation of World War II to save future generations from the "scourge of war" and maintain international peace and security. Article 2(4) of the UN Charter prohibits all member states from threatening or using force against the 'territorial integrity' or 'political independence' of another state. Under the Charter, only the UN Security Council may authorise the 'use of force' against a member state in response to breaches of international peace. The sole exception is Article 51, which permits the 'use of force' in self-defence, but only in response to an actual armed attack.

Under this legal framework, neither Israel nor the U.S. can plausibly claim to be exercising the right of self-defence against Iran under Article 51, whether individually or collectively. Notably, Iran has not recently attacked either state, and any earlier threat has long dissipated. In the absence of an ongoing armed attack, the 'use of force' cannot be justified as self-defence. At most, the argument rests on preventing a potential future Iranian attack – nuclear or otherwise – under the theory of "anticipatory" self-defence in response to an imminent threat.

Yet many scholars argue that international law does not recognise a right to use force in self-defence against an attack that has not yet occurred. Nevertheless, even under the broadest plausible theory of "anticipatory" self-defence, the use of force against Iran would be lawful only if three conditions were met: first, that Iran's leadership had decided to attack the U.S. or Israel; second, that it possessed the capability to do so; and third, that the 'use of force' was necessary now because this was the last window of opportunity to prevent that future attack.

However, the "anticipatory" self-defence argument appears even weaker today. The U.S. strikes in June 2025 had already substantially degraded Iran's capacity to develop a nuclear weapon. President Donald Trump had claimed that Iran's nuclear programme had been "obliterated". Since then, no evidence has been presented to show that Iran reconstituted its programme, formed the intent to build a weapon, mounted it on a ballistic missile, and prepared to use it against the U.S. or Israel.

Furthermore, neither regime change nor the protection of populations (Iranians) from mass atrocities by the Iranian government finds any basis in international law or the UN Charter as a lawful justification for the 'use of force'.

IHL violations

While morals and ethics in conflicts have deep historical roots dating back to ancient Greek, Roman, Indian, and Chinese civilisations, they were codified in their modern form, i.e., IHL, by the Geneva Conventions of 1949, complemented by other treaties and customary law. IHL protects the wounded, sick, prisoners of war, and civilians while restricting brutal weapons and methods of warfare.

Unlike the UN Charter, which addresses the legality of starting a war (*jus ad bellum*), IHL governs how wars are fought (*jus in bello*) and ensures humane conduct regardless of the war's initiation. It regulates the conduct of hostilities based on four core principles: 'distinction', 'proportionality', 'military necessity', and 'precaution'.

When the missile hit the girls' school in Iran, the 'principle of distinction', which requires that 'combatants' and 'military targets' be clearly separated from 'civilians' and 'civilian objects' such as schools, hospitals, places of worship, and public transport, was blatantly transgressed. Importantly, if there is any doubt about whether a target is military or civilian in nature, it must be presumed to be civilian.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child further reinforces this protection by recognising children as rights-bearing individuals and requiring States Parties, under Article 38(4), to take all feasible measures to ensure the protection and care of children affected by armed conflict. Similarly, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court defines the intentional targeting of civilians and attacks on buildings dedicated to education as war crimes. However, it must also be noted that civilian objects, including schools, may lose their protected status if they are used for military purposes and thereby become military objectives. For instance, a school functioning as a military base, artillery site, or command post could fall within this category. So far, however, there is no evidence that the school in Minab, Iran, was being used for military purposes or that it was deliberately targeted.

Proportionality and necessity

The key question, therefore, is how the strike should be assessed under IHL if the school was not intentionally targeted but was instead damaged as collateral harm from an attack directed at a nearby Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps facility, as some reports suggest.

In this regard, IHL recognises that civilian objects may be incidentally affected during attacks on military objectives. However, such incidental harm to civilians or civilian objects is lawful only if it satisfies the requirements of 'proportionality', 'precaution', and 'military necessity'.

In such circumstances – where a civilian object like a school is located near a military objective and is struck during an attack – the legality of the operation turns on whether the expected harm to the school and the children present was excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated from striking the intended target.

Equally crucial is whether military commanders took all feasible precautions to minimise civilian harm, such as verifying the target, assessing the presence of nearby civilians or civilian infrastructure, selecting weapons capable of limiting collateral damage, and timing the strike in a manner that reduces risks to non-combatants.

Role of international law

In a world where states increasingly resort to force against one another, critics often point to frequent violations of international law as evidence of its irrelevance. Yet this conclusion misunderstands how international law functions. While breaches do occur, sometimes brazenly, they remain exceptions to an overwhelmingly compliant pattern of behaviour.

The everyday conduct of diplomacy, international commerce, civil aviation, maritime navigation, environmental agreements, arms control arrangements, and treaty obligations continues to operate largely within the framework of international law.

Its significance lies not in perfect compliance but in its ability to demand justification. Through its argumentative and normative practices, international law compels those who wield power to account for their actions before a global audience.

This system of accountability may be imperfect, but it ensures that departures from legal norms can be identified, scrutinised, and condemned. The challenge today is not the absence of law, but the need for states to comply with it rather than bend it to politics. For when bombs fall on classrooms and playgrounds, it is not only lives that are lost; it is the quiet extinguishing of futures that had barely begun to exist.

(Kartikey Singh is a lawyer based in New Delhi)

THE GIST

- Under the UN Charter, only the UN Security Council may authorise the use of force against a member state, with self-defence permitted only in response to an actual armed attack.
- Civilian objects such as schools and hospitals are protected under International Humanitarian Law, which regulates the conduct of hostilities during conflict.
- International law compels states to justify the use of force and seeks to limit human suffering by regulating the means and methods of warfare.

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: Bengaluru: 98455 29981 ▪ 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 ▪ 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600 ▪ 2335700

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Nagarathna W/O, Jayappa R/o #73 Ashwathareddy Building, Ngr Layout Roopena Agrahara, 9th Main 5th Cross, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru 560068 have changed my name to Rathnamma for all purposes.

I, hitherto known as Prasad D son of N Devasahayam, resident of G-02, Site Number 66, 1st Floor, Sairam Layout, 3rd A Cross, Sonnathamanahalli, VTC: Krishnarajapuram, PO: Krishnarajapuram, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560036; have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Prasad ND.

I, LAXMI Harry Dhaul, W/o Harry Dhaul, r/at No.A4, Amayand Regency, No8/1, Museum Road, Bengaluru 560001 have changed my name as Laxmi Dhaul vide affidavit dtd 05.03.2026 sworn before Notary N.Kanchivaradaraju, Bluru

I, CHRISTOPHER Monty Cladius, S/o Cladius Thambi Xavier, r/at No.21, Sadasiva Mudaliar Road, 7th Cross, Murphy Town, Bengaluru have changed my name as Christopher Monty vide affidavit dtd 04.03.2026 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar, Bluru

BUSINESS OFFERS

M.P. group Tradition of Trust

M P STEEL INDIA LIMITED

Leading manufacturer of Stainless Steel / Alloy Steel Long & Flat Products - Round Bars, Hexagonal, Square, Angles, Channels & Profiles.

We invite Joint Ventures, Technology Transfers & Strategic Collaborations with companies offering advanced product portfolios and value-added technologies in the above stainless steel products, as well as in flanges, fasteners & automotive / EV components.

Let's collaborate for long-term growth and mutual success.

Connect with us : **info@mpsteelindia.com**

READ
FRONTLINE
LEADING THE DEBATE SINCE 1984
EVERY FORTNIGHT.
TO SUBSCRIBE, VISIT
www.thehindugroup.in/subscribe

PUBLIC NOTICE

COSMOPOLITAN CLUB
CIN: U92411TN1934NPL000349
Regd. Office: 63, Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002
Phone: 044-28584353 Fax: 044-28414356
E-mail: cosmonetcentre@gmail.com
Website: www.cosmopolitanclubchennai.com

NOTICE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Extraordinary General Meeting ("EGM") of the Club is scheduled to be held on Saturday, the 28th March 2026 at 04:30 p.m. to transact the agenda as set out in the Notice calling for the EGM.

Notice dated 27.2.2026 was dispatched to all members by Registered Post /Courier on 6th March 2026.

The Club is providing the facility of voting through electronic means ("remote e-voting") in compliance with Sec.108 of the Companies Act 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014. The business as set out in the aforesaid Notice will be transacted through electronic voting facility provided by M/s Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL). The Executive Committee has appointed Sri K.M.Subheramaniam, Advocate, as Scrutinizer to oversee the remote e- voting and Manual Ballotting.

The remote e-voting period begins on Wednesday, 25.03.2026 (9.00 a.m.) and ends on Friday, 27.03.2026 (5.00 p.m.). The e-voting module shall be disabled for voting after 5.00 PM on 27.03.2026,During this period, Members whose name appear in the Register of Members as on 08.03.2026 and those who are eligible as per Article-48 only shall be entitled to exercise their vote through e-voting process.

Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting may attend the Meeting but shall not be allowed to vote again in the meeting. The members attending the meeting who have not already cast their vote by remote e-voting can exercise their right to vote at the meeting. The facility for voting by manual ballot will be made available at the meeting venue.

The notice of the meeting is displayed in the club's website www.cosmopolitanclubchennai.com and the e-voting website of CDSL: www.evotingindia.com. In case of grievances connected with the facility for voting by electronic means may be addressed to Mr. Rakesh Dalvi, Manager, (CDSL) Central Depository Services (India) Limited, 'A' Wing, 25th Floor, Marathon Futurex, Mafatlal Mill Compounds, N M Joshi Marg, Lower Parel (East), Mumbai-400013 or send an email to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or call on 022-23058738 / 022-23058542/43.

/ By order of the Executive Committee /
Place: Chennai S. Swaminathan
Date: 06.03.2026 Honorary Joint Secretary

Government of Karnataka
Office of the, Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari

No.PWD/EE/Bly/TS-4/6451/2025-26 Date : 04-03-2026

Brief Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division, Ballari invites the tenders for the works detailed in the table from the eligible contractors registered in Karnataka Public Works Department, through Karnataka Public Procurement portal (KPPP). Two cover tender procedure as per KTPP Act shall be followed. The tender documents can be downloaded from the web-site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For any additional information the tenderers may contact the office of the undersigned during office working hours.

Note : For any changes either in tender dates or any other conditions or if recalled, tenderers can view in KPP portal. Separate notification in this regard will not be published.

TABLE

Sl No	Details of Work	Estimate Cost (Rs.in Lakhs)
	8443-Deposit Grants :	
1)	PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT32564	200.00
	4059-(Plan)-Departmental Buildings :	
2)	PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT30773	260.00

The Tender Events are as under:
1)Last dates for queries (through e-procurement portal): **12-03-2026 upto 12.00 Hours**
2)Last date for submission of tenders through KPP portal: **Sl No.1 work – 20-3-2026 upto 16.00 HoursSl No.2 work – 4-4-2026 upto 16.00 Hours**
3)Date and time of opening of Technical Bids.: **Sl No.1 work – 23-3-2026 upto 11.00 HoursSl No.2 work – 6-4-2026 upto 11.00 Hours**

DIPR/Ballari/1086/KSMCA/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Ballari.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-3, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.

No. DGM-3/BSWML/Tend/23/2025-26 Date: 05.03.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) (Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Tender documents can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** on payment of prescribed fee noted against each item of work (non-refundable) in the form of e-Payment through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. The Bidder shall submit the bid through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.

Sl. No.	Name of the works	Estimated amount Rs.in lakhs	EMD (in Rupees)
1	Loading and Transportation of LVP/SUP/MLP Generated in Bengaluru Central City Corporation area to cement industries	499.50	7,49,250/-
2	Loading and Transportation of LVP/SUP/MLP Generated in Bengaluru East City Corporation area to cement industries	499.50	7,49,250/-
3	Loading and Transportation of LVP/SUP/MLP Generated in Bengaluru West City Corporation area to cement industries	499.50	7,49,250/-
4	Loading and Transportation of LVP/SUP/MLP Generated in Bengaluru North City Corporation area to cement industries	499.50	7,49,250/-
5	Loading and Transportation of LVP/SUP/MLP Generated in Bengaluru South City Corporation area to cement industries	499.50	7,49,250/-

Stipulated Period of Service Contract : **06 Months**

CALENDER OF EVENTS: 1. Last date to upload pre-bid queries : **10.03.2026 upto 15.00 Hrs** in KPP Portal **2.** Date of Pre bid meeting: **11.03.2026 at 15:00 hours** in office of the Chief Engineer & Chief General Manager-2 (Tech), BSWML, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560052. **3.** Last date of submission of Bids in KPP Portal: **16.03.2026 before 16:00 hours. 4.** The Technical Bid opening date in KPP Portal**: 17.03.2026 after 16:30 hours. 5.** Date of opening of Financial bids to be notified of technically quailfied bidders .
Any Addendum/Corrigendum shall be published in the KPP Portal only.

DIPR/CP/6035/Zen/2025-26

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
Phone: 04324-277001. (10 Lines) Email : stores.dis@tnpl.co.in

TNPL Unit - I invites Tender for sale of following material on one time sale basis

Tender No.	Description	Due date
2025060	Clinker from TNPL Cement Plant	16.03.2026

Corrigendum if any will be issued in NIC Portal only. For further details, please visit website : **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/1606/Tender/2026 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
FOREST DEPARTMENT
Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission, Chennai – 600 035.

Request for Proposal (RFP) No: IN-TNSHORE-536512-CS-QCBS
Title: Consultancy Services for Supervision of Site Development and Basic Infrastructure Works for Biodiversity Conservation Park at Kadambur, Chengalpattu District, Tamil Nadu.

The Chief Mission Director, Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission, Chennai requests for proposal from eligible consultants for the aforesaid assignment. The Proposals are invited under National Open Competitive Procurement (NCP). The detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) for the above assignment will be available on the website **www.tntenders.gov.in** from **06.03.2026 at 15.00 hours**. All relevant information and instructions to consultant's are provided in the RFP document.

1. The Pre-proposal conference will be held at **11:30 hours** on **16.03.2026** at the O/o. Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission, Chennai

Chief Mission Director,
Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission,
No. 327, 9th Floor, Metros - CMRL Building, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai – 600 035.
DIPR / 1599 / TENDER / 2026

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1, 1st Floor, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052

No: DGM-1/BSWML/Tend/ 18 /2025-26 Date: 05.03.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)-Call 2 (Through GOK KPPP only)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites tenders from Waste pickers/ Self Help Groups/Non-Government Organisations/C&T Contractors for the operation and maintenance of Dry Waste Collection Centres for a period of 5 years. The interested tenderers may submit tenders through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka **viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in the bid document. For other details refer bid document.

Calendar of Events: 1. Last date to upload pre-bid queries: **10.03.2026 upto 17.30 Hrs.** in KPP Portal. **2.** Pre bid meeting: **11.03.2026 at 12.00 Hrs** at the office of CE & CGM (Tech), BSWML, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthanagar, Bangalore. **3.**Last date for submission of the bids: **16.03.2026 upto 16.00 Hrs. 4.**Date of opening of bid: **17.03.2026 after 16.30 Hrs.**

DIPR/CP/6038/ZEN/2025-26 Sd/- Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru.

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP portal)

Notification No. **KHB/CE/Bengaluru/Kengeri Multiplex-TA/KHB/2025-26/SE0352, Date: 02.03.2026.**

Karnataka Housing Board has invited tender through KPP Portal for **Appointment of Transaction Advisor (TA) operators for operation and maintenance of KHB Commercial complex with multiplex building at Sy.No. 20/8 in Valagerahalli, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District.**

Last date for submission of bid is on 16.03.2026 upto 4.00 PM.

For further information, contact below mentioned Office Address:
Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board,
Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru.
Telephone No.: 080-22273511
Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/CP/YC/6025/2025-26 Sd/- Executive Engineer, KHB, Bengaluru

---

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder
Call our toll-free number
1800 102 1878
Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in
Scan the QR code to register your feedback
THE HINDU thehindu businessline. FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR Young World THE HINDU

TNPL TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136, Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
Kagitha Nagar, Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy Dist, Tamil Nadu.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Nature of Work	Date of publishing Tender document in TNPL/NIC website	Due date
252613 007544	Procurement of Wet Precipitated Calcium Carbonate - 20%	09.03.2026	23.03.2026
252613 007551	Procurement of Cationic Starch (In Jumbo Bags) for Unit - I.	11.03.2026	25.03.2026
252613 007545	Procurement of Caustic Soda Lye for Unit - I & II.	27.03.2026	10.04.2026
252613 007560	Procurement of Sulphur Di-Oxide for Unit - I & II.	04.04.2026	18.04.2026
252613 007546	Procurement of Maize Based Native Starch (In Jumbo Bags) for Unit - I.	13.04.2026	27.04.2026
252613 007558	Procurement of Sodium Hydrosulphite for Unit - I.	05.05.2026	19.05.2026
252613 007547	Procurement of Liquid PAC (Poly Aluminium Chloride) for Unit - I.	02.05.2026	15.05.2026
252613 007559	Procurement of Sulphuric Acid for Unit - I & II.	05.05.2026	19.05.2026
252613 007549	Procurement of Hydrogen Peroxide for Unit - I & II.	19.05.2026	02.06.2026
252613 007595	Procurement of Pigment Dyes (Violet & Blue) for Paper Machine #1, 2 & 3.	22.05.2026	05.06.2026
252613 007562	Procurement of Burnt Lime for Production of Wet Precipitated Calcium Carbonate (WPCC)	13.03.2026	27.03.2026
252613 007598	Procurement of Imported Burnt Lime (In Jumbo Bags) for Production of Wet Precipitated Calcium Carbonate (WPCC).	25.03.2026	13.04.2026
252613 007533	Procurement of Heavy Duty LDPE Shrink Film Roll, 80 / 90 Microns of various sizes of TNPL Unit - I.	23.03.2026	06.04.2026
252613 007536	Procurement of 300 GSM Circular Grey Board Disc - 93 CM / 95 CM & 97 CM for Unit - I & II.	15.04.2026	29.04.2026
252613 007537	Procurement of 720 GSM Kraft Corrugated Circular Disc (5 Ply) - 97 CM for Unit - I.	15.04.2026	29.04.2026
252613 007555	Procurement of Heat Treated Ply Wood Pallets of various sizes for Unit - I.	20.04.2026	04.05.2026
252623 004312	Procurement of Latex - 2 (Pre Coat - SBR Binder) for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit - II.	25.03.2026	09.04.2026
252623 004313	Procurement of Liquid Non Ferric Alum for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit - II.	12.05.2026	27.05.2026
252623 004321	Procurement of Sodium Sulphate (In Jumbo Bags) for SRP of TNPL Unit - II.	02.05.2026	16.05.2026
252623 004328	Procurement of 90 GSM Plain Kraft Sheets & Sheets of various sizes (BF: 24) for TNPL Unit - II.	17.03.2026	01.04.2026
252623 004330	Procurement of Heavy Duty LDPE Shrink Film Roll (70 micron) of various sizes for TNPL Unit - II.	18.04.2026	04.05.2026

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. For further details, please visit websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/1570/Tender/2026 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

Government of Karnataka
Department Of Health and Family Welfare
OFFICE OF THE HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT, VIJAYANAGAR DIST
E-mail: dhovijayanagara21@gmail.com
Telephone: 08394-227040

No: DHO/Tender Notification/DH/03/2025-26
Date:03-03-2026

SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

District Health and Family Welfare Officer Vijayanagar inviting short term Re-tender for Providing Various Medical and allied equipment's required for Radiology and Laundry Department for New 250 Bedded District Hospital of Hosapete under 2024-25 KKRDB fund through e-procurement (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) portal. **(Amount to Put to Tender 218.75 Lakhs) (INDENT NUMBER:DHFWS/2025-26/IND2107/Call-2)** Interested eligible Tenderers can upload the document between **date:03-03-2026 to date: 18-03-2026 time up to 05:00** pm. For more information tenderers may contact the office phone number :08394-227040 or in persons during office hours.

Sd/-District health and Family Welfare Officer Vijayanagar
DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/KSMCA/RO No/571

ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಭಾಗ್ಯ ಜಲ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಒಂದು ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಇಂಶಾಕಾ, ನಿಮಪೋ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಸಂ–8, ಝಳಕಿ – 586204. ತಾ:ಇಂಡಿ, ಜಿ: ವಿಜಯಪುರ. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ: 08422–282227
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್:eezalakidiv8@gmail.com

ಸಂ:ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ/ಇಂಶಾಕಾವಿ–8/ಝಳಕಿ/ಡಿಬಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ–15/ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ/2025–26/1992 ದಿನಾಂಕ:04.03.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ಮಾನ್ಯ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಇಂಶಾಕಾ, ನಿಮಪೋ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಸಂ: 8 ಝಳಕಿ ತಾ: ಇಂಡಿ ಇವರು ಶೇಕಡಾವಾರು ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲೂ–3 ರಡಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ–1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳು–2000 ರಂತೆ ದ್ವೀ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಕ್ಲಾಸ–3 ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ. ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ವಿವರ

Name of Work: Emergency work for Removing the Collapsed and Unstable slopes from Km 75.00 to 77.00 Km of IBC (Selected Reaches) (INDENT NO. KBJNL/2025-26/CN/WORK_INDENT2739/CALL-2)
ಟೆಂಡರ ಮೊತ್ತ : ರೂ. 84.72 ಲಕ್ಷ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ರೂ: 1,69,000/–

ಟೆಂಡರಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟನಲ್ಲಿ www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.

ಟೆಂಡರಿನ ವಿವಿಧ ಹಂತಗಳು: 1] ಟೆಂಡರ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸುವ ಮತ್ತು ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕಾಲಾವಧಿಯು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **06.03.2026 ರಿಂದ 13.03.2026 ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.**

2] ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **16.03.2026** ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ.

3] ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **18.03.2026** ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ.

ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ: 1) ಮೇಲೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ರಜಾ ದಿನವಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಹಾಗೆ ಘೋಷಿಸಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂದಿನ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನವನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. 2) ಷರತ್ತಿನ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರಾಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯು ಯಾವುದೇ ಅಥವಾ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. 3) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಇಂಶಾಕಾ, ನಿಮಪೋ,
ವಿಭಾಗ ಸಂ:8,ಝಳಕಿ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/775/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹೂಟಗಳ್ಳಿ
ಎಸ್.ಆರ್.ಎಸ್. ಸ್ಟೇಷನ್ ಎದುರು, ಹೈಟೆನ್ಷನ್ ಜೋಡಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಹೂಟಗಳ್ಳಿ
ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ – 570018, ದೂ: 0821–2001737
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: ka.hootagalli.cmc@gmail.com, ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: ka.hootagalli.cmc@gmail.com

ಸಂ.: ನಸಹೂ/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಸ.ಆ./ಸಿ.ಆರ್.15/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.03.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಹೂಟಗಳ್ಳಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–01 ಮತ್ತು ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–04ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್: 1)DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53105/CALL-2 ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ.14.37 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು.** ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ. 30,500/–. 2)** DMA/2025-26/RD/WT/WORK_INDENT55779 ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ.171.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು,** ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.2,18,000/– ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **17.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 05:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.** ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **19.03.2026, ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.** ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.2ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.03.2026ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಅಂಗೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ನಗರಸಭೆ ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ

ಸಹಿ/– **ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು**
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೂಟಗಳ್ಳಿ

DIPR/MYS/1787/SA/2025-26

SRI JAYADEVA INSTITUTE OF CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES & RESEARCH
(Govt. of Karnataka - Reg. Autonomous Institute)
Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560 069.
Ph.: +91-80-22977666/276/433/216/217
Tele Fax:080-26534625/477 | e-mail: director.sjicr@gmail.com

Ref:SJICR/TS/ 51/2025-26 Date: 05.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences & Research, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru invites tender for the following items in two bid system from eligible tenderers through KPP Portal of Government of Karnataka.

Sl. No.	Tender Notification/ Indent No.	Particulars
1.	SJICR/2025-26/IND0050 Dt. 05.03.2026	Supply of General Consumables/ House Keeping items/ Hospital Linen/ Disinfectant Items & other miscellaneous Items
2.	SJICR/2025-26/IND0051 Dt. 05.03.2026	Supply of Furniture & Fixtures/ Laundry Chemicals/ Electrical Items/ Plumbing & Sanitary Items/ Air Conditioners etc.
3.	SJICR/2025-26/IND0049 Dt. 05.03.2026	Supply of Accessories/ Consumables/ Spares for Air Conditioners/ Laundry Equipment/ Boiler Equipment/ Medical Gas/ Furniture etc.
4.	SJICR/2025-26/IND0052 Dt. 05.03.2026	Supply of Accessories/ Consumables/ Spares for Medical Equipment
5.	SJICR/2025-26/IND0053 Dt. 05.03.2026	Supply of Stationery Items

1. The tenderers can download the documents from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **09.03.2026** and the last date for submission of completed tenders through e-portal is **07.04.2026 up to 4:00 PM.**
2. Date of Pre-bid meeting: **24.03.2026 at 11:30 AM.**
3. Date of Technical Bid opening: **08.04.2026 at 4:00 PM.**
4. EMD: as mentioned in the tender document
5. The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the tender partially or fully without assigning any reason at any stage of processing.

Sd/-
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (I/C) &
DIPR/CP/JA/6023/2025-26 CHAIRMAN, TENDER INVITING AUTHORITY

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bengaluru Division, 2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-01, Phone: 080-22133370

No. 63/2025-26 Date:04.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Item-rate tenders, for the work in PWD, **Hoskote & Anekal Sub-Division** under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per KPPP. Tender Notification is Published for **04 works (Rs.45.00 Lakhs to 400.00 Lakhs)** Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. **EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in KPP Portal http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sl.No.01 & 02
(1) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP Portal **on or before 4.00 P.M. on: 12.03.2026 (2)** The opening of tenders through KPP Portal on: **13.03.2026 at 4.30 P.M.** or further date and time will be intimated.

Sl.No.03 & 04
(1) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP Portal **on or before 4.00 P.M. on: 23.03.2026 (2)** The opening of tenders through KPP Portal on: **24.03.2026 at 4.30 P.M.** or further date and time will be intimated.

For more details contact this office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/DD-C.P/6013/KSMCA/2025-26

Karnataka State
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Shimoga Division, Shimoga

No.EE/PWD/Smg/AE-1&2/IFT-57/2025-26 Dtd: 04-03-2026

Short Term Tender Notification -2 Cover system

Tender invited thro' E-Procurement version-2 kppp.karnataka.gov.in for the below Indents by PWD Class- 3 & above Contractors For needful information please contact Office P.No. 08182- 274942 and Helpdesk Ph Nos. 080-25501216/ 080-25501227)

Tender documents down loading & submission dates: 05-03-2026 to 12-03-2026

All Contractors

3054-04-337-1-10-200 MDR Bridges Maintenance: Shikaripura Taluk 1 Work (I.No: 34080)

5054-80-190-0-01-132 KRDCL-Capital Expenditure (Foot Bridge): 2 Hosanagara Taluk 1 Work (I.No: 33888)

Tender documents down loading & submission dates :

Sl.No: 01-Periods to complete the work is up to: 03 Months (Including Mansoon) Sl.No: 02-Periods to complete the work is up to: 06 Months (Including Mansoon)

If there any changes in published tenders it will be publishing in E-Procurement version-2| kppp.karnataka.gov.in Website

Sd/-EE, PW Dept Division, Shimoga

DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/35/03/1951

IN THE LIMELIGHT

A still from *Haq*. JUNGLE PICTURES/YOUTUBE

Hindi cinema and the changing meaning of conjugal relationships

Contemporary Hindi cinema shows the crisis of conjugal relationships through stories of infidelity, violence, abuse and legal disputes, with films such as *Haq* revisiting debates on Muslim women's rights and triple talaq

Dev Pathak

Contemporary Hindi cinema has made the crisis of conjugal relationships dramatically visible with props and plots on legality. Conjugality is contested from the perspectives of infidelity, violence, and abuse within marital relationships. The latest example is the elegantly curated Suparn Varma film *Haq* (2025). The film is premised on the famous Shah Bano case, which began in 1978 and continued till 1985. The consequent debates on Muslim women's rights and the anomalies of instant triple talaq remain relevant even today.

Haq sensitively renews interest in the social and legal entanglements within which the female protagonist's persistent pursuit of justice unfolds. Nearly five decades ago, B.R. Chopra's musically entertaining, high-decibel melodrama *Nikah* (1982) had also dealt with the problem of triple talaq. In both *Haq* and *Nikah,* there is a significant resonance of the female protagonists' clamour for a healthy conjugal relationship free from betrayal and abuse and conducive to gender equality.

Not just a film about Muslim women and social-legal complexities, *Haq* joins a range of popular Hindi films that aim to make a statement on conjugality and the crisis that besets it. An instant reminder is Gulzar's politically charged drama *Aandhi* (1975), which portrays an estranged wife and husband, essayed by Sanjeev Kumar and Suchitra Sen, persistently longing for an ordinary conjugal life. The *Aandhi* song "*tere bina zindagi se shikwa*" summarises the whole tale. No less significant was J. Om Prakash's musical hit *Aap Ki Kasam* (1974), starring Rajesh Khanna and Mumtaz, and Gulzar's poetic masterpiece, *Ijazat (*1987). Both delivered a melancholic recapitulation of the breakdown of conjugality on the grounds of infidelity. Songs like "*zindagi ke safar mein*" in the sardonic voice of Kishore Kumar, or "*mera kuch saman*" in the deep husky lilt of Asha Bhosle, continue to haunt us melodiously even today.

In a historically long trajectory, Hindi cinema has shown the vulnerability of conjugal romance. Four decades ago, when popular Hindi cinema was dominated by remakes of films from South India, there were series of social dramas on the strengths and weaknesses of married life. T. Ramarao delivered a straightforward tale of infidelity and the consequent rupture in conjugality in *Ek Hi Bool* (1981).

Cinematic prototype of conjugality

A prototype of conjugality emerged in Hindi cinema from its early years. In the first quarter of the 20th century, Dadasaheb Phalke's classic *Raja Harishchandra* (1913) retold the well-known story from the Puranas. A perfect eulogy for the conjugal relationship, the story received umpteen cinematic versions in regional languages. The key theme of each version is the tryst between a king committed to truth and Taramati, the king's devout wife.

In Kannada cinema, there have been four versions of the same story since A.V. Meiyappan's 1943 production, which was also dubbed into Tamil. Moreover, there were cinematic recastings of the *Harishchandra Taramati* tale in Marathi, Gujarati, Punjabi, Bangla, and other regional languages. Suffice it to say that these innumerable cinematic returns to the tale set a pan-Indian template of conjugality with an archetypal halo.

Departing from this prototype, the fissures and fractures in conjugality resulting from marital disputes between wife and husband became more central in cinema in the second half of the 20th century. A lesser-known film, *Biraj Bahu* (1954) by the maestro Bimal Roy, was based on the famous novel by modern classical litterateur Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay. The film underlined the patriarchal moral judgment on the infidelity of a wife that upsets conjugal relations.

A Guru Dutt classic dealing with conjugality was *Mr. & Mrs.'55*. In spite of its solid argument based on the then-passed divorce Bill in India, the film ingenuously persuades us to believe in the love, care, and empathy associated with post-marital conjugality. Most importantly, it serves as an early reminder of the negative consequences of societal interference between a wife and a husband.

On the other hand, Hrishikesh Mukherji's musical masterpiece *Abhimaan* (1973) sharply critiques the toxic masculinity of a husband against an exceedingly successful wife. The estranged couple suffers the consequences and eventually surrenders to the intimate power of conjugality, which helps mend their broken relationship.

Another Guru Dutt magnum opus, *Kaagaz Ke Phool* (1959), underlined the fraying of conjugality, resulting in the husband's quest for love and fulfilment elsewhere. To top it all, there is Basu Bhattacharya's trilogy on married life, namely *Anubhav* (1971), *Avishkar* (1974), and *Griha Pravesh* (1979). Each film in the trilogy provides a sensitive portrayal of the complexities caused by both physical and symbolic infidelity, where both partners suffer with a deep longing to talk to each other and find a resolution.

The sombre melancholia in the cinematic texture of the trilogy continued in Bhattacharya's last film, *Aastha* (1997). In between a tussle between infidelity and conjugality, the film shows a housewife driven by aspirations in a consumerist society, committing infidelity. She eventually finds resolution through an enabling conjugal relationship with her husband. However, Mahesh Manjarekar's *Astitva* (2000) presents a counter-argument, depicting the violent abandonment of an unfaithful wife and the unequivocal collapse of conjugality.

The trend continued in the 2000s, which witnessed a significant rise in the dexterous treatment of the complexities of conjugality in popular Hindi cinema. In 2007, Anurag Basu's masterpiece *Life in a... Metro* and Reema Kagti's *Honeymoon Travels Pvt. Limited* offered a sensitive depiction of the hum and lull of conjugal romance.

Good old days and today

Such an abundance of cinematic engagement with conjugal relationships must be discerned in the wake of a weakening sense of conjugality in contemporary society. There are disturbing statistics of exceedingly rising cases of saddening separation, mushrooming misunderstanding, anguish and estrangement of the partners, also traditionally called wife and husband. Sadly, this shows a weakening of the family and adverse consequences on the mental health of the married couple and children.

In spite of our heightened critical awareness of the intricacies and anomalies of the institutions, we can seldom deny the significance that conjugality holds for us. In a volatile world seduced by desire, Hindi cinema, in its own ways, reminds us to navigate manifold genuine challenges and ensure that the beauty of conjugality does not metamorphose into a monstrous banality.

(Dev Nath Pathak teaches at South Asian University, New Delhi and is the author of the book, In Defense of the Ordinary)

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Michelangelo was born on this day in 1475. A quiz on the Italian sculptor and painter who was one of the greatest artists of the Italian Renaissance:

Radhika Santhanam

QUESTION 1

X is a sculpture by Michelangelo, carved out of one solid block of marble. It captures the moment when Jesus was taken down from the cross and given to Mary. It balances early forms of naturalism with the Renaissance ideals of classical beauty. Name X.

QUESTION 2

Michelangelo's most famous sculpture is arguably the statue of David. Where was it originally supposed to be located?

QUESTION 3

What does a salad made of mozzarella, tomatoes, basil, and olive oil and the birthplace of Michelangelo have in common?

QUESTION 4

Michelangelo and X were commissioned to paint battle scenes in competition with one another, but neither of them finished their work. They were bitter rivals and criticised each other's works. Who is X?

QUESTION 5

On the Sistine Chapel altar wall, Michelangelo depicted himself as X. Identify X as one of the 12 Apostles of Jesus according to the New Testament.

Visual Question:

Who is this man, who Michelangelo chose to depict fondling his beard, with flowing hair, and horns?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Name this ancient Indian materialist school, which rejected the Vedas, denied the soul, and held that only what can be perceived through the five senses is real. **Ans: Charvakas/ Lokayata**

2. He was forced by the Roman Inquisition to publicly recant his support for Copernican heliocentrism and spent his final years under house arrest. **Ans: Galileo Galilei**

3. A countryman of the person in Q2, this person was also tried for heresy by the Inquisition for holding views such as the universe being infinite and having no centre or fixed boundary. **Ans: Giordano Bruno**

4. This Dutch philosopher was "expelled" from the Jewish community for equating God with Nature and treating the Bible as a human and not divine document, rather than the word of God. Name him. **Ans: Baruch Spinoza**

5. Not a heretic in the general sense of the term, but this scientist discovered that stars are primarily made of hydrogen and helium, but was pressured by Henry Norris Russell, an influential astronomer, to retract her finding, only to be proved right later. **Ans: Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin**

Visual: This physicist was persona non grata in his country, not for his scientific beliefs, but for his religious affiliation, despite being a Nobel Laureate. Name him and his community. **Ans: Abdus Salam/ Ahmadiyya community**

Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan | Sadhan Panda | M. Suresh Kumar

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

"Hi! Am I late?"

"You're right on time for a change."

"Thank goodness! That reminds me, the last time we met, you talked about how the English language is prejudiced against left handers."

"It's pro right handers and anti left handers."

"In what way is English...."

"... are you willing to be my left hand man?"

"You can be someone's right hand man. But left hand...."

"Do you know what 'right hand man' means?"

"Of course I do. If I am your right hand man, I am the man you depend on for almost everything."

"If someone says you are his/her right hand man, it's considered a compliment."

"I plan on becoming some politician's right hand man when I grow up."

"You are likely to get involved in some scam or another."

"As long as I make money I am not bothered. Whose right hand man do you want to be?"

"I want to be my own man."

"Oh, you are one of those! Give me more examples of how the word right....."

"....just look at the words associated with the word 'right'. We have, for instance, the word 'adroit'."

"What?"

"A.d.r.o.i.t. The 'a' in the first syllable is pronounced like the 'a' in 'china' and 'about'. The 'oi' is like the 'oy' in 'boy', 'toy', and 'joy'."

"The stress is on the second syllable?"

"The word is pronounced aDROIT."

"But what does the word mean?"

"It means skilful. Someone who is adroit is skilful not only in the way he does things, but also in the way he thinks."

"Can I say that my Principal is adroit at flattering people?"

"Your Principal sounds just like my boss. He too likes to flatter people."

"Many people do. But tell me, what is the connection between 'adroit' and what we were talking about?"

"The word 'adroit' comes from the French 'a droit' meaning 'to the right'."

"And as time passed, the word changed it's meaning."

"That's right. It began to acquire a positive meaning."

"Can you give me another example which...."

"....how about the word dexterous?"

"Dex.... What?"

"D.e.x.t.e.r.o.u.s. The 'ex' in the first syllable...."

"....is pronounced like the word 'ex'?"

"Exactly! The second 'e' is not pronounced at all."

"Not pronounced at all?"

"That's right! And that's why the word is sometimes spelt d.e.x.t.r.o.u.s. Without the second 'e'."

"I see."

"The final 'ous' is like the 'ous' in 'famous', and 'monstrous'. The stress is on the first syllable."

"But what does dexterous mean?"

"Someone who is dexterous is very skilful or clever with his hands."

"Skilful again?"

"If you want to become a painter, you need to be a little more dexterous."

"Does the word dexterous mean 'right handed' too?"

"Yes. The Latin word 'dexter' means 'right' or 'right hand'."

Published in The Hindu on December 11, 1999

Word of the day

Irascible:
quickly aroused to anger

Synonyms: fiery, bad-tempered, irritable

Usage: *His irascible nature made him difficult to work with.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/irasciblepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪræsɪbəl/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

HC suggests govt. to evolve mechanism for verification of migrant labourers

It is equally important to ensure that migrant workers are not stigmatised as a class, since criminal liability is individual in nature, says High Court of Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Expressing serious concern over recent incidents of involvement of inter-State migrant labourers, engaged in domestic or construction works, in heinous crimes at their workplaces, the High Court of Karnataka has suggested that the State government formulate guidelines for mandatory police verification of migrant workers employed in households and private establishments.

A structured and mandatory police verification mechanism, similar to tenant verification systems, with simplified online registration portals accessible to the public, the court said.

Pointing out that the house owners or employers, in many cases, engage the migrant workers without conducting any background verification, identity confirmation, or registration with the authorities concerned, the court said this situation highlights the urgent need for preventive safeguards through strict enforcement of existing labour and criminal regulatory mechanisms.

Four convicted

A Division Bench comprising Justice H.P. Sandesh and Justice Venkatesh Naik T. made these observations while convicting four migrant workers in the 2009 triple murder case of R.T Nagar and setting aside the trial court's 2016 verdict of acquitting the accused.

The accused persons, in the 2009 case, were from West Bengal, and had come to Bengaluru in search of job. A woman among them had entered the victim's house as domestic help, conspired with her husband and others, committed triple murder by strangulation, robbed gold and silver valuables, and fled. Four of them were arrested after 20 months and one was still absconding, the Bench pointed out.

The Bench imposed imprisonment for life to all four, Deepak Haldar, his wife Suchitra Haldar, their accomplices Mohammed Sarba, alias, Raj and Bidan Shikari.

Suchitra had joined as a domestic help in the house of Purushotham Lal Sachdev, 71, who was a retired professor of Indian Institute of Science and was staying in his outhouse along with her husband, Deepak.

The accused had killed Sachdev, his wife Rita Sachdev, 62, and their son Deepak Sachdev, 35.

Not to stigmatise

However, while strengthening preventive mechanisms, it is equally important to ensure that migrant workers are not stigmatised as a class, since criminal liability is individual in nature and the constitutional guarantees under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India protect the dignity and equality of all persons, the Bench said.

Awareness campaigns

Meanwhile, the Bench said that widespread public awareness campaigns through print, electronic, and social media platforms should be undertaken to educate citizens about safe hiring practices.

Sri Lankan SC judge moves Karnataka High Court for removal of links of old online news reports from Google

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum of the High Court ordered the issue of notice to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Google while adjourning further hearing till March 16.

In an unprecedented case, a judge of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, Justice A.H.M.D Nawaz, has moved the High Court of Karnataka seeking a direction to Google India to remove online links of old alleged defamatory news reports published in 2015 and 2020 against him related to certain controversies by Sri Lankan newspapers, namely, *Colombo Telegraph* and *Lankenews*.

Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum of the High Court, before whom Justice Nawaz's petition came up for hearing on Thursday , ordered the issue of notice to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Google while adjourning further hearing till March 16.

'Notice through email'

Meanwhile, the High Court asked the advocate for Justice Nawaz to serve notice to Sri Lankan newspapers through emails.

Though the petition was filed in the High Court's registry way back in January 2025, it was posted for hearing on Thursday. It was pointed out in the petition that he was the President of the Court of Appeals of Sri Lanka when these alleged defamatory news reports were published, and subsequently, the cases related to alleged controversies involving him were quashed by the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka. Following the quashing of the cases, he was elected as a judge of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, where he continues to serve even today, it has been stated in the petition.

Stating that despite the quashing of the case, the old defamatory news reports referring to him are still available for the public beyond the shores of Sri Lanka through Google links, the petition points out.

Since Justice Nawaz is a visiting member at several esteemed colleges within SAARC nations, the continued existence of these news reports in the public domain tarnishes not only his professional career but also inflicts irreparable harm upon his reputation in the academic and legal communities, as contended in the petition.

It has been pointed out in the petition that as a judge of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, Justice Nawaz is ethically prohibited from filling lawsuit to address these defamatory articles in Sri Lanka as it would conflict with the well-established legal principle that 'one cannot be a judge in their own cause.'

Unparalleled strength

"India possesses a judiciary of unparalleled strength and integrity, one that upholds the rule of law with unwavering commitment. In this regard, the petitioner has invoked its jurisdiction and filed the present case, confident in the judicial process that safeguards justice for all, irrespective of nationality," it has been stated in the petition, while adding that the Google India headquarters being situated in Bengaluru was the reason for him to choose the Karnataka High Court.

Justice Nawaz also relied on the judgment of the High Court of Delhi on 'right to be forgotten' in the internet age for removing outdated contents affecting right to privacy of individuals from online.

KSIC land row: Farmers protest against stadium plan

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Farmers taking out a procession in Mysuru before they staged a dharna in front of Deputy Commissioner's office on Thursday.
M.A. SRIRAM

Amid growing opposition to the proposed construction of a sports stadium on land belonging to the Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation (KSIC) filature factory at T. Narsipur, members of the State Farmers' Organisations Federation staged a protest in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office here on Thursday, demanding that the project be scrapped. Opposition to the proposal has grown louder after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's son and MLC Yathindra Siddaramaiah asserted that a stadium would be constructed on the premises of the KSIC factory despite concerns raised by several sections.

Thursday's farmers' protest was led by federation state president Hallikerehundi Bhagyaraj. The protesters raised slogans against the State government and condemned elected representatives and officials over what they termed an attempt to divert land associated with the historic Mysore silk industry. Shouting slogans such as "Save KSIC" and "Protect sericulture farmers", the protesters urged the government to withdraw the proposal to utilise five acres and eight guntas of land belonging to the KSIC unit for the stadium project.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Bhagyaraj said the silk weaving factory in Mysuru was established in 1912 by Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar to safeguard the interests of farmers, generate employment and preserve the Mysore silk tradition. Diverting the land for a sports facility would be "anti-farmer" and "anti-labour" and would threaten the legacy of Mysore silk, he alleged.

He said generations of families in Mysuru and Chamarajanagar districts have depended on sericulture for their livelihood. "Income from silk cocoons has sustained families for decades, meeting their needs such as food, clothing, education and employment. Even our forefathers survived on the earnings from selling cocoons. Closing such a factory is unjustified," he said.

Mr. Bhagyaraj urged the government to instead strengthen the factory by allocating ₹100 crore in the Budget and installing two more machines to generate employment. He claimed that the factory site is home to hundreds of birds and more than 550 trees, which could be destroyed if the stadium project proceeds. In a statement here, he claimed that the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports has submitted a proposal to construct a 200-metre athletics track along with badminton and kho-kho courts on the land. He expressed concern that a drinking water pipeline supplying water to T. Narsipur town might pass through the proposed site.

Demanding that the government drop what they described as an "anti-farmer" and "anti-people" project, the protesters urged the authorities to identify an alternative site for the stadium.

Govt. revises orderly system for senior police officers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Director General-Inspector General of Police (DG-IGP) has issued fresh orders implementing the State government's decision to overhaul the existing orderly system in the Police Department and introduce an alternative arrangement in place of deploying police personnel as orderlies. The order, issued in compliance with multiple government communications culminating in Government Order dated January 12, 2026, provides for the creation of 373 follower (attendant) posts in the Civil Police, subject to the abolition of an equal number of posts in the Karnataka State Reserve Police (KSRP).

MAHE establishes Q-Hub to advance India's indigenous quantum hardware ecosystem

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

MoA signing ceremony between Manipal Academy of Higher Education and Quantrolox in presence of other partners, in Bengaluru on Thursday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

With an aim to advance India's indigenous quantum hardware ecosystem and align with the National Quantum Mission, Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), a deemed-to-be university, formally launched Quantum-Hub@MAHE (Q-Hub) at Manipal Institute of Technology (MIT), Bengaluru campus on Thursday.

Conceived as an integrated design-to-deployment platform, Q-Hub brings together quantum hardware experimentation, deep-tech startup incubation, component innovation, workforce development, testing infrastructure, and translational research within a unified academic framework. "The initiative is structured to strengthen India's sovereign capability across the quantum value chain," the statement said. The institute also signed Memorandums of Agreement (MoA) with QuantrolOx (Finland) in association with Bluefors (Finland), QBLOX (Netherlands), ConScience (Sweden), Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology. Q-Hub has set a target of training 100 quantum engineers by December 2026 through a structured certification programme combining online modules, assessments, and hands-on laboratory immersion. The centre will also function as a national testing and measurement gateway, enabling researchers, startups, and industry partners to access advanced infrastructure. The physical facility is scheduled for inauguration in September 2026.

Q-Hub has set a target of training 100 quantum engineers by December 2026 through a structured certification programme

M. D. Venkatesh, Vice-Chancellor, MAHE, said, "Q-Hub@MAHE reflects our commitment to building sovereign scientific capability aligned with the vision of the National Quantum Mission. By integrating research, hardware development, and workforce training within one ecosystem, we aim to contribute meaningfully to India's leadership in advanced quantum technologies."

Indian Overseas Bank
CENTRAL OFFICE: 763, ANNA SALAI, CHENNAI-600 002

PUBLIC NOTICE

Important information regarding TDS/TCS correction timeline as per new Income Tax Act 2025.

- With effective from 01.04.2026, any TDS/TCS correction viz. correction of PAN, correction of amount paid and TDS/TCS amount etc. for the period from Q4 2018-19 to Q3 2023-24 can be processed only upto 31.03.2026.
- Customer seeking correction for FY 2018-19 to FY 2023-24 must submit their requests well before 31.03.2026.
- The Correction request is time barred by limitation on 31.03.2026 and would not be accepted from 01.04.2026 onwards.
- For assistance, customers may contact the nearest Indian Overseas Bank branch.

**कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय,
सुवर्णरेखा नहर प्रमंडल, चांडिल।**
(Email id – eescd.chandil@gmail.com)

ई0 प्रोक्युरमेंट नोटिस

ई0 निविदा प्रसंग सं0 : **WRD/IGC/SCD-CHANDIL/SBD-01/2025-26**
दिनांक : **05.03.2026**

1.	कार्य का नाम	:	Construction and laying of UGPL work from Km. 7.105 to Km. 8.505 of Asanbani Sub-Distributary (Ex. from Km. 8.10 of Jadugora Distributary)
2.	प्राक्कलित राशि	:	रू0 4,25,22,113.22 (रूपये चार करोड़ पचीस लाख बाईस हजार एक सौ तेरह एवं पैस बाईस) मात्र।
3.	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	:	Rs. 10,000.00 (Only online payment allowed)
4.	अग्रधन की राशि		Rs. 4,26,000.00 (Only online payment allowed)
5.	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	:	6 माह (180 दिन)
6.	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	:	दिनांक 10.03.2026 को अपराहन 5.00 बजे
7.	निविदा अपलोड एवं डाउनलोड करने की तिथि एवं समय	:	दिनांक 10.03.2026 को अपराहन 5.00 बजे से 28.03.2026 को अपराहन 5.00 बजे तक
8.	निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	:	दिनांक 28.03.2026 को अपराहन 5:00 बजे तक।
9.	निविदा खोलने की तिथि	:	दिनांक 30.03.2026 को अपराहन 5.00 बजे।
10.	निविदा प्रकाशित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता	:	ई0 शिवराम गागराई, कार्यपालक अभियंता, सुवर्णरेखा नहर प्रमंडल, चांडिल।
11.	ई0 प्रोक्युरमेंट पदाधिकारी का दूरभाष संख्या	:	0657-3510191
12.	ई0 प्रोक्युरमेंट सेल का दूरभाष संख्या	:	0657-3510191

नोट : 1. सिर्फ ई0 निविदा स्वीकार किया जायेगा।
2. प्राक्कलित राशि कम या अधिक हो सकती है तदनुसार अग्रधन की राशि मान्य होगी। अधिक जानकारी के लिए हमारे वेबसाईट ***http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in*** देखें।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
सुवर्णरेखा नहर प्रमंडल, चांडिल।

PR 374147 (Water Resource) 25-26 (D)

The Touch of Silk — *The Grace of Handlooms!*
You are Invited to
India's Biggest & Most Trusted Natural Fibers Products
INDIAN SILK GALLERY EXPO
An Exhibition cum Sale of 100% Handloom Products for
Exclusive Expo for Ugadi & Weddings

Dates : 3rd to 8th March 2026 (6 Days)
10.30 AM to 8.00 PM

Venue : CHITRAKALA PARISHATH, Kumara Krupa Road, Near The Lalit Hotel, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru - 560001

Exclusive Collection of Banarasi | West Bengal Boutique Items | Tassar Kantha & Printed | Chanderi / Maheshwari | Kota | Rajkot Patola | Pochampally Ikkat | Bengaluru Pure Crape Silks | Bihar & Jharkhand Tassar Dress Materials | Gadwal | Kalamkari | Kanchipuram | Paithani Sarees | Venkatagiri /Uppada Jamdhani Sarees and Cotton Dress Materials | Bed linens | Jewellery

Contact : 9121535337 or 9000346337 ✉ info@indiansilkgallery.com
Sponsored by Development Commissioner Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO)
ISRO-TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC)
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP**
Plot No.12 &13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-58. Fax: 080-28094180. Ph: 080-28094541, 4186

BRIEF TENDER NOTICE. E-Tender

1. On behalf of President of India, **item rate E-Tenders** are invited online from contractors of appropriate class for the following work in NIT by Group Head, ISTRAC, ISRO, Peenya, Bengaluru-58.

1	Name of Work	**Annual Maintenance Contract for Cummins make DG Sets installed in different locations at IDSN campus, ISTRAC, Bylalu village, Bengaluru.**	**Electrical works for the renovation of various Conference rooms at SCC campus, ISTRAC, Peenya, Bengaluru.**
2	E-Tenders Notice	**ISTRAC/CMG/E/MAINT/ E-Tender-117/2025-2026 dated: 04.03.2026**	**ISTRAC/CMG/E/MAINT/ E-Tender-118/2025-2026 dated: 04.03.2026**
3	Estimated cost put to tender	**Rs. 107.34 Lakhs**	**Rs. 11.07 Lakhs**
4	Tender Document details	**E-Tender**	
5	Period of completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	**Three (03) years**	**Four (04) months**
6	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From 16.00 hrs. on 05.03.2026 to 25.03.2026 till 16.00 hrs.**	**From 16.00 hrs. on 05.03.2026 to 18.03.2026 till 16.00 hrs.**
7	Bid clarification	**From 11.00 hrs. on 06.03.2026 to 26.03.2026 till 16.00 hrs.**	**From 11.00 hrs. on 06.03.2026 to 19.03.2026 till 16.00 hrs.**
8	Last date and time of reply to Bid clarification	**27.03.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.**	**20.03.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.**
9	Last date & time of receipt of tenders	**28.03.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.**	**21.03.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.**
10	Due date and time of opening of tenders	**30.03.2026 after 11.00 hrs.**	**23.03.2026 after 11.00 hrs.**
11	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 2,14,680.00**	**Rs. 22,140.00**

2. For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and the tender free view at **https://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.**

Sd/- Group Head, CMG

Bengaluru airport ranked best at arrivals globally for fourth consecutive year

The awards recognise airports that consistently deliver strong performance across parameters such as service, comfort, convenience, and cleanliness

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A file photo of Kempegowda International Airport .

The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has been ranked the Best Airport at Arrivals Globally at the 2025 Airports Council International (ACI) Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards, for the fourth consecutive year.

The recognition, based on real-time passenger feedback and the ACI ASQ programme, is the world's leading benchmark for airport customer experience, capturing passenger satisfaction through globally standardised, in-journey surveys.

The awards recognise airports that consistently deliver strong performance across parameters such as service, comfort, convenience, and cleanliness.

"Passenger feedback highlights KIA'S strong performance across arrivals in both Terminal 1 and Terminal 2 of the airport, with improvements in processing times at immigration and baggage reclaim, wayfinding, terminal comfort, and digital services, contributing to a smoother and more predictable flow through the airport. This is reflected in the rise in overall customer ratings from 4.98 to 5.00, indicating sustained gains in passenger perception," Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) said.

The services/parameters in which the airport ratings improved in 2025 compared to 2024 are – Wi-Fi, flight display on carousel screens, availability of carts/trolleys, comfort of waiting areas, walking distance inside terminal, waiting time before retrieving baggage, waiting time before deboarding aircraft, waiting time before immigration ease of finding your way (signage).

"For us, every arrival is a moment of responsibility. Travellers value predictability, speed, & comfort, and we design our operations to deliver exactly that. By aligning every touchpoint from aircraft to kerb, we ensure a seamless and coordinated arrival experience. Being recognised as the World's Best Airport for Arrivals for the fourth consecutive year reflects the consistency of our execution and the collective commitment of our teams and partners. We remain focused on continuously strengthening the end-to-end journey," Girish Nair, Chief Operating Officer, BIAL said.

More stranded passengers arrive from Dubai

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stranded passengers from Dubai continued to arrive in Bengaluru in batches for the third consecutive day.

On Thursday, an Emirates flight with around 358 passengers arrived at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA).

The flight departed from the Dubai airport at 1.44 p.m. and landed at KIA at 6.45 p.m. Another flight EK-567 departed to Dubai at 8.06 p.m. with around 203 passengers. Akasa Air had also announced that it will operate select flights to and from Jeddah to Bengaluru.

The airline had announced on March 4 that QP 550 and QP 551 will operate between Bengaluru - Jeddah and Jeddah - Bengaluru. However, the airline did not provide details whether these flights operated as per schedule.

On Thursday too, there were cancellation of flights to and from the West Asia region. "Due to airspace restriction on Thursday, 14 arrivals and 16 departures were cancelled," BIAL said.

BEL ties up with Bellatrix Aerospace to design, develop satellite systems

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BEL say such collaborations are essential to strenghten India's indigeneous capabilities in the evolving space sector

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Bengaluru based space startup Bellatrix Aerospace have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on the design, development and manufacturing of satellite systems and payloads.

"The collaboration brings together BEL's decades of experience in developing advanced electronics and mission-critical payloads for defence and strategic applications with Bellatrix Aerospace's innovative capabilities in satellite propulsion and satellite subsystems. By combining their complementary strengths, the partnership aims to advance indigenous capabilities in satellite platforms designed for Very Low Earth Orbit (VLEO) operations," BEL said. It added that this partnership is expected to be transformational in accelerating innovation and strengthening India's capabilities in building next-generation satellite systems for VLEO.

BEL further said that as space continues to play an increasingly strategic role in today's scenario, partnering with innovative deep-tech startups like Bellatrix allows BEL to combine its expertise in defence electronics with emerging space technologies.

"Such collaborations are essential to strengthen India's indigenous capabilities in the evolving space sector. Together, the two companies aim to develop integrated satellite solutions that support India's strategic and civilian space missions," the defence PSU said.

Khader seeks probe into discarded Aadhaar cards

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Karnataka Legislative Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader has written to the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to conduct a probe into the large number of Aadhaar cards discarded on the banks of Netravati river at Farangipet, under Pudu village, on the outskirts of Mangaluru, on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, in his letter to Project Manager UIDAI, Khanija Bhavan, Bengaluru, Mr. Khader, MLA of Mangaluru constituency, said that the president of Pudu Gram Panchayat and other local people had come across the cards on Tuesday, and gathered them. "Later, they informed me," he said. The Speaker asked the UIDAI to conduct a probe into why such a large number of Aadhaar cards were strewn on the banks of the river, and trace the persons who were responsible. "Legal measures should be taken suitably later," he said.

Further investigation is on, he added.

Three-day 'urs' begins at Bababudangiri Hills

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The three-day 'urs', an annual event to pay homage to Hazrad Daya Hayat Mir Qualandar, began on Wednesday with prayers at the Guru Dattatreya Bababudan Swamy Dargah, a cave shrine atop Bababudangiri Hills in Chikkamagaluru taluk.

As part of the event, devotees and fakirs carried sandal paste from Attigundi to the shrine in a procession.

The participants recited songs in praise of the Sufi saint. They entered the shrine and paid their homage to the saint. However, Syed Ghouse Mohiyuddin Shakhadri, hereditary administrator of the shrine, chose not to enter the shrine, opposing the Chikkamagaluru administration's refusal to allow him to conduct the rituals inside the shrine.

UTTAR PRADESH MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking)
e - Tender Notice
Tender Ref. No: UPMSCL/QC- 008/31/25-26 Dated: 28 February, 2026
e-TENDER FOR EMPANELMENT OF ANALYTICAL TESTING LABORATORIES FOR THE ANALYSIS OF DRUGS AND DIAGNOSTIC KITS
Online e-tenders are invited for e - tender for the empanelment of analytical testing laboratories for the analysis of Drugs & Diagnostic Kits. The details of tender and tender documents will be made available on website https://etender.up.nic.in and www.upmsc.in. The date/time of downloading the tender is 28 February, 2026 from 15:00 Hrs & last date/time of online submission of the tender documents is 20 March, 2026 upto 15:00 Hrs.
Managing Director
UPMSCL, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
PUBLIC NOTICE
Level crossing no 77 at 1km:134/700-800 between Ginigera & Munirabad stations is planned for permanent closure for road traffic & public from 18.03.2026 and Deputy Commissioner/Koppal order is obtained by South Western Railways for permanent closing Level Crossing Gate No. 77. Public are advised not to cross level crossing gate from 18.03.2026 public are hereby advised to be cautious and not to trespass the Level Crossing -77, which will endanger the lives. Trespassers are also liable for prosecution, which may please be noted.
Chief Engineer/Construction/II/
PUB/958/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26 Hubballi
Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.
South Western Railway - SWR @SWRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

Metro Railway, Kolkata
Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/Project, Metro Railway, Kolkata for & on behalf of The President of India invites e-Tenders against Open Tender due to open on 27.03.2026 at 15.00 hrs. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Name of work:** Provision of VOIP based Train Control and Communication System (TCCS) in North South Metro Railway, Kolkata. **Tender Value (Rs.) :** ₹ 1,34,26,400.41, **Earnest Money (Rs.):** ₹ 2,17,100, **Completion Period :** 09 Months. The Tender can be viewed at website: **https://www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidders can participate on e-tendering. All relevant papers must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-Tender.
Tender Notice No.: S&T/Work_37-2025-Retender
Follow us at: /metrorailwaykol /metrorailkolkata

YANA SOLAR PRIVATE LIMITED
Sy. No.82-P, 83, 84, 85 & 86-P of Sompura Village, Sompura Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. Karnataka.
PUBLIC NOTICE
The Karnataka State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) has accorded Environmental Clearance (EC) vide File No. SEIAA/297/CON/2025 Dated:04/02/2026 for our project for the development of a commercial warehouse facility. The project is located at Sy. Nos. 82-P, 83, 84, 85 & 86-P, Sompura Village, Sompura Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Karnataka.
The copies of the Environmental Clearance letter is available on the website:**https://parivesh.nic.in**
This is issued to bring to the notice of the public.
Sd/- Director

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client has entered into an agreements in respect of the Schedule property with its original owners who are the legal heirs of Late Vansanthappa S/o Late Venkataramanappa.
Pursuant to the Agreement, few people claiming to be the legal heirs of Late Gendappa S/o Venkataramanappa and Late Narasingappa S/o Venkataramanappa filed O. S. No. 435/2025 on the file of the court of Hon'ble Senior Civil Judge at Bagepalli in which my client is also one of the Defendant.
The General public as well as any Legal heirs of Late Vansanthappa S/o Venkataramanappa, Late Gendappa S/o Venkataramanappa and Late Narasingappa S/o Venkataramanappa who left out in O. S. No. 435/2025 on the file of the court of Hon'ble Senior Civil Judge at Bagepalli or any person having any manner of right, title or interest over the Schedule property, hereby called upon to appear in O.S. No. 435/2025 pending on the file of the court of Hon'ble Senior Civil Judge at Bagepalli and put forth their claim in the Hon'ble court **on 28.03.2026.**
Otherwise, after the disposal of the suit, my client will proceed with the transaction and no claims to be entertained thereafter in respect of the Schedule property.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All the piece and parcel of **Sy No. 58** measuring **08 acres 19 Guntas inclusive of 19 Guntas** "A" Kharab situated at **Mangasandra Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bagepalli Taluk, Chikabalapura District** and bounded on the
East by: Property belonging to Nagesh Rao and Dr Ramesh
West by: Hillock/Gutta
North by: Road
South by: Land of Venkataravanappa and Chowdappa
M. N. MUNIREDDY, Advocate
No. 7, Walton Road, Bangalore-560 001
Mob: 9448228352
Email: munireddy.mn@gmail.com

IN THE COURT OF THE XXII ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE
P and S.C No. 69/2026 (CCH-7)
BETWEEN: 1] S.BALASRINIVASAN @ SRINIVASAN, S/o Subramaniam, H/o Lalitha Srinivasan, Aged about 76 Years, R/at No-301,whispering meadows, 1st main, 2nd stage R.M.V.Extension, Dollars colony, Sanjaynagar VTC, Bangalore North-560094. **2] SMT.NANDINI KARTIK**, D/o S Balasrinivasan, W/o Kartik Sundar, Aged about 48 Years, Residing at Crossgate. House Of Hiranandani, Prasannahalli. Devanalli District Bangalore Rural-562110 ... **PETITIONERS**
AND: NIL ... RESPONDENT
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas the petitioners above named have made petition to this court under section 372 of Indian succession Act for the grant of Succession Certificate in favour of the petitioners in respect of annexure mentioned below, The below mentioned annexure has held by Late Lalitha Srinivasan, Husband of petitioner No-1 and Daughter of petitioner No-2 herein who expired on 19.03.2023 Interested parties are hereby called upon to appear before this court in person at 11:00 A.M inform to cause or by pleader duly instructed on **21-04-2026** against the petitioners failing where the appearance will be heard and declared as exparte.
ANNEXURE

Sl No.	Bank Name Account / Particulars	Volume of Shares Market value
1.	MUTUAL FUNDS, Account statement account portfolio summary, DSP Large and Mid Cap Fund Regular Plan Growth (G) FOLIO:4581313 / 88 individual The company situated at Raheja Tower No 104-106 M G Road Craig Park layout Ashok-Nagar, Bangalore -560 001	Rs. 74,87,531/-

Given under my hand & the seal of this Court on 25-02-2026.
By order of the court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.
Sri. SIDDAREDDY .K.G, Advocate
No. 59, Shamala nilaya, 3rd Cross, Hallehalli, KR Puram-560036

SHRI SAIBABA SANSTHAN TRUST, SHIRDI
AT. Post. Shirdi, Tal-Rahata, Dist. A.Nagar-423 109
Phone No.: 02423-258858/61,
Website-www.sai.org.in, E-Mail: saibabaiti22@gmail.com
Shree Saibaba Sansthan Trust Shirdi invites E tender Supply, Installation, Commissioning of Machinery for our I.T.I. Department from manufacturers, authorized dealers fulfilling the prescribed minimum qualifying criteria. All detailed information & Tender documents will be available on **www.mahatenders.gov.in.** for downloading. Tender Submission Starts Date From 06/03/2026 time 11.00 am. & Tender submission end date 24/03/2026 time 5.00 p.m.
Sd/-
Goraksha Gadilkar, I.A.S
Chief Executive Officer,
DGIPR/2025/2026/6348

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(only through KPP Portal)
BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.
Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1.	East-1	BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/ 5506/2025-26 Dt:04/03/2026	₹ 58,60,201/-	13.03.2026 upto 4:00 pm	16.03.2026 after 5:00 pm
			₹ 1,17,205/-		
2.		BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/ 5506/2025-26 Dt:04/03/2026	₹ 81,84,533.43		
			₹ 1,63,700/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (East-1)
The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours. DIPR/CP/6012/CCL/2025-26

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum-4 to Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/133/2025 dated: 29.07.2025
Item of Work : RFP for Construction of New Broad-Gauge line including Electrical, Signal & Telecommunication works between Jumlapur Road (Exel) Ch: 75400 and Gurgunta (incl) Ch: 134950 (59.55 km) under GADAG-WADI New line Project on EPC Mode. (Tender Ref. No. JUMLAPUR-GURGUNTA-EPC)

Approximate Value Rs.	
Existing	Modified
964,51,54,197/-	982,43,51,712/-
Date of Closing	
Existing	Modified
17.03.2026 (15:00 Hrs.)	27.03.2026 (15:00 Hrs.)

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Dy. Chief Engineer/CN/Work
PUB/959/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26 Bengaluru Cantt.
Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.
South Western Railway - SWR @SWRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

HIMACHAL PRADESH POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(A State Government Undertaking)
Himfed Building, BCS, New Shimla, Shimla-171009.
Phone: +91 177-2671915, Fax No.: +91 177-2671416
CIN:U40101HP2006SGC030591
CORRIGENDUM-I
This is in reference to the proposals (RFP) invited by HPPCL from experienced and reputed Consultants/Consultancy Firms/Bidders through **Open Tendering Mode (National Competitive Bidding) for "Engagement of Project Management Consultant (PMC) for Thana Plaun HEP (191 MW) on River Beas in District Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, India"**
The above Notice Inviting Request for proposal (RFP) was published on dated **30.01.2026** in various newspapers and uploaded on the E-tendering web portal: https://www.tenderwizard.com/HPPCL
The words **"Open Tendering Mode (National Competitive Bidding)"**shall be read as **"Open Tendering Mode (International Competitive Bidding)".**
For detailed tender notification, please visit www.hppcl.inor https://www.tenderwizard.com/HPPCL or contact **+91 177-2671915, +91 177-2671416** & email: **gm_contracts@hppcl.in**
Sd/-
General Manager (Civil Contracts)

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayath, Chitradurga
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chitradurga-577501
Email : zped.cta@gmail.com Office phone no: 08194-222372
No:EE/PRED/CTA/TEND/TECH//2025-26/3491 Date:03.03.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION
Executive Engineer, Pachayath Raj Engineering Division, chitradurga has invites works tender under Standard tender document under CEPMIZ (KMERC) head of account grant for 4 works (Indent No: 25351,20501,24347,25353) for the Estimated Cost Minimum Rs.728.71 lakhs Maximum 1171.39 lakhs Total Rs:3790.23 Lakhs. Further information obtained from the office during the office hours or any quarries contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel: 09240214000, or 09240214000 this office Telephone no. 08194-222372 at office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division,Chitradurga as dates below:-
Last Date for information any quarries Date: 06.04.2026 Time 11.00
Last Date for Submitting the tender Date: 07.04.2026 Time 16.00
Last Date of Opening the Technical Bid Date: 08.04.2026 Time 16.01
Last Date of Opening the Financial Bid Date:09.04.2026 Time 16.02
Further any quarries for tender contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel: 09240214000, or 09240214000 or this Phone no.08194-222372 or Executive Engineer, P.R.E.Division, Chitradurga in office hours.
RO.No.733:DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/2025-26
Sd/- Executive Engineer
P.R.E. Division, Chitradurga

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
PHONE NO: (0240)-2333536-40. 2348001-05 (PBX), FAX-(0240)-2331213
Website:- http://www.aurangabadmahapalika.org/
No./CSMC/2026/90 **1. TENDER NOTICE** Date-02/03/2026
E-Tender Notice No. 2026_AMCA_1283163_1
Development of Commercial Complex (Shops & Offices), Banquet/ Exhibition Hall on Build Operate and Transfer Basis situated at CTS No.3208, Nehru Bhavan, Buddilane, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Municipal Corporation, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.
Details Such as bid document last date of submission, date of Pre bid conference etc. will be available from 02/03/2026 from 17.00 hrs. On **https://www.mahatenders.gov.in** portal. All interested bidders may apply online through this portal.

Sr. No	Description	Details
01	Name of Work	Development of Commercial Complex (Shops & Offices), Banquet /Exhibition Hall on Build Operate and Transfer Basis for 30 years (extendable add on 30 years, total up to 60 years), situated at CTS No.3208. Nehru Bhavan, Buddilane. Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Municipal Corporation, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.
02	Department	Build Operate and Transfer (BOT)
03	EMD (Online payment only)	Rs. 40,00,000/- (Rupees Forty Lakhs-only)
04	Bid Validity	120 Days
05	Form Fee (Online payment only)	Rs.11,800/-(Including GST)
06	Time Limit of Work	12 Months
07	Performance Bank Guarantee (For successful bidder only)	5% of Project cost in the form of Bank Guarantee of Nationalized bank.
08	Date & Time of Publishing / Downloading of Tender	02/03/2026 Time 17:00 Hrs
09	Date of pre-bid meeting	12/03/2026 Time 13:00 Hrs
10	Date & Time of Submitting the Tender	25/03/2026 Time 17:30 Hrs

Sd/-
Municipal Commissioner
Municipal Corporation Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works.
Tender Notice No. HE-TRD-2025-26-OT-41 Dated: 27.02.2026

SN	Item of work	Approx. value
1	OHE Modification for Proposed Short shunting neck of 260 mtr for Rd-3 towards Kulem end	₹57,82,969.30

Tender Notice No. HE-TRD-2025-26-OT-42 Dated: 27.02.2026

2	OHE Modification for Provisional of 1 Additional Loop Line at Pachapur Station	₹1,29,43,721.00

Tender Notice No. HE-TRD-2025-26-OT-43 Dated: 27.02.2026

3	OHE Modification for Provisional of One Additional Loop Line (5th Line) at Sulebhavi Station	₹1,28,55,922.00

Last Date for Submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 30.03.2026**
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD/
PUB/962/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26 Hubballi
Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.
South Western Railway - SWR @SWRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.
No: EE/KNNL/BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra / 2nd Tender Notification No: 15/2025-26: Dated: 03.03.2026
Ref. No: EE/KNNL/BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra/ Tender Notification No: 15/2025-26: Dtd: 18.12.2025
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION - Call 2
(Through E-Procurement Portal only)
Percentage Tenders by e-procurement portal in the prescribed form is invited by the undersigned on behalf of Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore from the eligible Contractor under the Head of Account 4701 Bhadra. The No. of works is 02. The approximate cost of amount put to tender is varies from **Rs.169.48 Lakhs to Rs.186.30 Lakhs.** The amount of EMD is varies from **Rs.2,55,000/- to Rs.2,80,000/-** (by kpp portal) contractors can access and submission of completed e-tendering documents from **04.03.2026 to 16.03.2026 upto 17.30 hours** in the website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Technical Bid will be opened on **17.03.2026 at 17.30 hours** and Financial Bid will be opened on after obtaining approval of technical bid from competent authority. Pre-Bid Meeting on Dtd: **11.03.2026 @ 11.00 Hrs** at O/o Executive Engineer, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi. Stipulated period for the completion of work is 08 Months (Including monsoon).For more conditions and details visit website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** OR at undersigned in all working days during office hours on telephone No. 8660573513.
DIPR/SMG/No-10-03/zenkar/2025-26
Sd/-
Executive Engineer. KNNL, No.4, BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

Lokayukta Police conduct raids on 9 officials at over 42 locations

According to the Lokayukta, assets worth ₹35.65 crore were unearthed, including ₹24.05 crore in immovable properties and ₹11.59 crore in movable assets; searches carried out in Bengaluru, Mandya, Gadag, Mysuru, Vijayapura, Hassan and Yadgir

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/HASSAN

The Karnataka Lokayukta Police on Thursday conducted simultaneous searches at over 42 locations across the state in connection with disproportionate assets (DA) cases registered against nine government officers. Searches were carried out in Bengaluru, Mandya, Gadag, Mysuru, Vijayapura, Hassan and Yadgir districts.

According to officials, assets worth a total of ₹35.65 crore were unearthed, including ₹24.05 crore in immovable properties and ₹11.59 crore in movable assets.

Lokayukta officials conducting a raid on the residence of an engineer of Hassan City Corporation on Thursday. PRAKASH HASSAN

High drama in Hassan

High drama ensued in Hassan when Lokayukta Police officials went to raid the residence of Sathyanarayana M.C., Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE), Hassan Mahanagara Palike, in Hassan. The officer allegedly locked himself up in his house and refused to open the door for the officials. As a result, the raids were delayed by over three hours on Thursday morning. Even as local police and Lokayukta Police were contemplating breaking open the door, Mr. Satyanarayana eventually opened the door after much persuasion.

As raids began, the total value of disproportionate assets accumulated by the officer is estimated at ₹6.82 crore, allegedly amounting to 200.74% in excess of his known sources of income. However, the raids against the officer are still on and will continue on Friday as well, sources said.

Bengaluru cases

Three officers in Bengaluru were raided on Thursday. Shashidhar R., CEO, Singanayakanahalli Raita Seva Sahakara Sangha, Yelahanka, was found to have a DA of ₹3.43 crore, Dr. H. C. Indresh, Associate Professor, Veterinary College, Hebbal, was found to have a DA of ₹1.88 crore and Vasanth Valappa Naik, Chief Engineer, K-SHIP, Public Works Department, was found to have a DA of ₹4.41 crore.

Five others raided

Asif Iqbal Khaleel, AEE and In-charge Executive Engineer, Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board, Mysuru was raided and was to have an estimated DA of ₹6.89 crore, highest among the eight officers raided on Thursday.

Sathish S., Assistant Executive Engineer, PWD, Mandya Sub-Division was raided and he was found to have an estimated DA of ₹3.01 crore. M. K. Surakod, Taluk Backward Classes Welfare Officer, Shirahatti, was raided and he was found to have an estimated DA of ₹1.82 crore. Prakash Irappa Ghodbale, Junior Engineer, KBJNL, Vijayapura was raided and was found to have an estimated DA of ₹4.60 crore. Veeresh Rudraiah Hiremat, Electrical Inspector, Yadgir, was raided and was found to have an estimated DA of ₹1.54 crore.

Still in progress

Lokayukta officials said the searches were still in progress and that the valuation of assets is provisional. Further investigation is underway.

Lokayukta pulls up civic bodies over stray dog menace, seeks time-bound compliance

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Lokayukta on Thursday came down heavily on civic authorities in the Greater Bengaluru Authority for failing to file comprehensive compliance reports on curbing the stray dog menace, warning that directions of the apex court must be implemented in letter and spirit.

The observations were made while hearing a *suo motu* case registered on August 31, 2024, following the death of a 76-year-old retired teacher who was mauled by a pack of stray dogs on the Air Force Station residential campus at Jalahalli East.

The Chief Commissioner of the Greater Bengaluru Authority submitted a consolidated report stating that over 1.5 lakh dogs had been vaccinated and funds earmarked for shelter construction. However, the Lokayukta observed that most actions remained at tender or land identification stages, and emphasised the need for expeditious and scrupulous compliance to ensure citizen safety while also safeguarding animal welfare.

The observations were made while hearing a *suo motu* case registered on August 31, 2024, following the death of a 76-year-old retired teacher who was mauled by a pack of stray dogs on the Air Force Station residential campus at Jalahalli East. FILE PHOTO

While the South City Corporation submitted a comprehensive report on measures taken, the Lokayukta pulled up the four other corporations for not doing enough and their reports being incomplete.

The corporation said that the capacity for sterilisation had been significantly increased. About 4,075 doses of Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV) were available and land at S. Bingipura has been identified to shelter 500 dogs. It also said that work orders were already issued for building shelter homes. The Commissioner assured that shelter construction would be completed within a month. Officials of the North Corporation claimed that tenders for sheltering 500 stray dogs would be finalised by March 7. Proposed construction of an ABC centre at Mahadevapura in East Corporation costing ₹4.3 crore and identification of land at Basavanapura were still at the tender stage.

The Lokayukta found reports filed by the North, East, West and Central corporations incomplete. Reports filed by the Chief Executive Officers of Bengaluru Urban, Rural and South Zilla Panchayaths were also found lacking in comprehensive details. All authorities have been directed to file comprehensive compliance reports by April 30 and the matter will be heard on May 8.

GBA official arrested while accepting ₹10,000 bribe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Lokayukta police on Thursday trapped a Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) official red-handed while allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹10,000 to drop a road cutting violation case.

According to officials, the complainant, Abdul Rehman (49), a resident of R.T. Nagar, had alleged that his chipping machine used for road cutting was unauthorisedly seized from a work site. The accused government official allegedly demanded ₹10,000 for releasing the machine.

The accused, identified as M. Nagaraj (39), working with the GBA at Kaval Byrasandra, was caught red-handed. The accused was booked under Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and taken into custody for further investigation.

Beating the heat

Amid rising temperatures in the city, people shield themselves from the heat on Dr. Ambedkar Road in Bengaluru on Thursday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

'State ready to implement UKP Phase III'

BELAGAVI: "Karnataka is ready to implement the third phase of the Upper Krishna irrigation Project (UKP) if the Union government were to issue a gazette notification towards this effect," Minister for Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development M.B. Patil said on Thursday.

He had arrived in Belagavi to participate in the inauguration of a Raja Gopura in the Sri Veerabhadreshwar Temple in Yadoor.

"The State Cabinet has taken a decision to fix the maximum compensation for land acquisition. This will be implemented once the work starts," he said.

HC notice to State and Centre on plea challenging wildlife boards' approval for ₹10,000 crore Sharavathi project

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday ordered issue of notice to the Centre and State government on a PIL petition, which had questioned the legality of the approval granted by the State Wildlife Board and the in-principle approval granted the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife for the ₹10,000 crore Sharavathi Pumped Storage Hydroelectric project in Shivamogga and Uttara Kannada districts.

A Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha, passed the order on the petition filed by Akhilesh Chipli of Shivamogga and two others. Appearing for the petitioners, advocate B.V. Vidyulatha contended that no approval could have been granted for the project, which is taken up within the Sharavathi Valley Lion Macaque Sanctuary and its ecosensitive zone in view of the bar imposed under Section 29 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

What law says

Ms. Vidyulatha pointed out that Section 29 makes it clear that no person shall destroy, exploit or remove any wildlife including forest produce from a sanctuary or destroy or damage or divert the habitat of any wild animal by any act whatsoever or divert, stop or enhance the flow of water into or outside the sanctuary, except under and in accordance with a permit granted by the Chief Wildlife warden.

She emphasised that destruction within sanctuary is permissible only for "improvement and better management of wildlife" in the sanctuary. It has been stated in the petition that the project requires a total extent of 142.763 hectare of land out of which 102 hectare are is geographically located inside the sanctuary and 39.715 hectare is situated within the ecosensitive zone.

No authority

The Standing Committee of the National Board of Wildlife has no power or authority to grant approval for any diversion of wildlife sanctuary for purposes which are not for benefit of wildlife, it has been contended in the petition and the present project is "a total disastrous for wildlife" and not at all for improvement of sanctuary, it has been contended in the petition. The petitioners have sought an order from the court to quash the approval given by the State Board in January 2025 and the in-principle approval given by the National Board in June 2025 for the project.

India has resources, but not the will: Jean Dreze on MGNREGA's future

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, (MGNREGA) is a pro-worker law implemented by an anti-worker system, economist Jean Dreze said, reflecting on how the country's flagship rural employment programme, conceived as a rights-based guarantee, has increasingly been shaped by administrative practices that work against the workers it was meant to empower.

Economist Jean Drèze speaking during a discussion on MGNREGA vs VB-G RAM G, at Gandhi Bhavan on Thursday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Mr. Dreze, who played a key role in the conceptualisation and drafting the MGNREGA, was speaking on the "harsh realities of MGNREGA vs the proposed Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill (VB-G-RAM-G)" in the city on Thursday. During the discussion, he examined the changing trajectory of the MGNREGA, the pressures it faces today, and how policy decisions- from wage levels to digitisation have steadily weakened what was once envisioned as a rights-based safety net for rural workers.

"India is not a poor country. It is a country with a lot of poor people," he said, arguing that the country's problem today was not the absence of resources but the absence of political will to prioritise the livelihoods of its poorest citizens.

Right to work

The MGNREGA was conceived as a legal guarantee of employment, giving rural households the right to demand up to 100 days of wage labour from the government. The law, he said, was designed to empower workers by shifting the relationship between citizens and the state. However, he argued that over time the spirit of the law has increasingly been undermined through administrative restrictions, delayed payments, and policy decisions that weaken workers' ability to actually claim their rights.

"What was recognised as a right and conferred as a right for people has now, with the VB-G RAM G Act, become a dispassionate thing that the government will turn on or turn off based on various preferences," he said.

The idea behind the MGNREGA, he explained, was fundamentally different from conventional welfare schemes. It was meant to guarantee employment as a right- something citizens could legally demand from the State, rather than a benefit distributed at the government's discretion.

Mr. Dreze noted that even at the time of drafting the law, the MGNREGA was never meant to fully realise the constitutional ideal of the right to work, but rather serve as a step towards it. "The MGNREGA is a step towards the right to work. It is not the right to work," he said, adding that the right to work would ideally mean employment that was meaningful, socially useful, reasonably well paid and productive, work that people themselves value and that contributes positively to society and the environment.

He also spoke about how changes in wage determination have altered the spirit of the programme, particularly in States such as Jharkhand. He said the wages were never raised after 2009 while market prices kept rising.

Digitisation hurdles

Another major concern, he said, has been the way "digitisation" was introduced into the programme.While digital systems were intended to increase transparency and reduce corruption, Mr. Dreze said the payment architecture under the MGNREGA has repeatedly changed over the years. Initially, wages were paid in cash, after which the system moved to payments through bank and post office accounts. This was followed by electronic transfers through systems such as NEFT, and later by Aadhaar-linked payment systems.

These repeated changes have, many times, resulted in delayed or rejected payments, particularly for workers in remote areas who may face difficulties with banking access, biometric authentication, or linking identification details.

Mr. Dreze also expressed concern over the broader policy direction of rural employment programmes, particularly with discussions around the VB-G RAM G Act.

At present, he said it remains unclear how such initiatives would interact with or reshape the MGNREGA. "We don't know what they (the Central government) are planning. We don't know whether they have a plan, or if it will be restricted, if not dismantled," he said, referring to the lack of clarity about the government's long-term approach to employment guarantees. "It's a complete black box right now."

He further suggested that State governments, especially States such as Karnataka, could play a larger role in strengthening employment guarantees. He argued that a state like Karnataka, with relatively stronger finances, could potentially take the lead in expanding employment guarantees or supplementing the existing programme within the next three to four years.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, MAR. 06	
RISE 06:33	SET 18:29
RISE 20:56	SET 08:12
SATURDAY, MAR. 07	
RISE 06:32	SET 18:29
RISE 21:45	SET 08:49
SUNDAY, MAR. 08	
RISE 06:31	SET 18:29
RISE 22:35	SET 09:29

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	33	21
Bengaluru	34	20

Bengaluru Today
33°C The weather will be dry. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be slight cool.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2026
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath Chandrasekar (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

The weight of a child being checked at an anganwadi at Ganganagar in Bengaluru; (right) Children being served food at an anganwadi in Kalaburagi. As per National Family Health Survey-5 figures, child stunting in Karnataka stood at 35.4%. The latest figures from the State government show that the stunting numbers have dropped to 31% as of January 2026. SUDHAKARA JAIN & ARUN KULKARNI

High undernutrition burden of N. Karnataka

In North Karnataka, child undernutrition has been an unrelenting problem. More than a function of food scarcity, it is an outcome of overlapping issues, inter-generational and structural, writes **Shilpa Elizabeth**

Malli (name changed), an agricultural labourer from Yadgir, is unsure about her age. "I must be in the late 20s... may be 26," she says coyly.

A mother of four, her eldest son is 10 years old. The middle children - five and three - go to the nearby anganwadi. The youngest, who is in his fifth month now, occasionally coos as she speaks. She is not familiar with terms such as under-nutrition, stunting or wasting, but she recollects that her third son started experiencing health issues soon after birth.

Going by Malli's estimation, she probably was a teenager when she conceived first; and, possibly, a child bride when she got married. A household of seven, Malli's family gets supplements, including eggs and pulses from the anganwadi centre, facilitated by Central guidelines and State schemes to battle child malnutrition.

In north Karnataka districts, child malnutrition - specifically undernutrition - has long remained a persistent and entrenched problem. More than a function of food scarcity, it is an outcome of overlapping issues - some of them intergenerational and some structural.

> Iron tablets to combat anaemia are often not consumed. Many women believe that iron tablets will lead to excessive growth of the baby and complications during delivery
>
> **HAFEEZ ULHA,** Bharath Gyan Vigyan Samiti

A vortex of deprivation

From a spate of hunger and malnutrition-related child deaths in Raichur that shook the State's conscience in 2011 and 2012, things do seem to have improved in north Karnataka districts 15 years down the line.

Nalini Atul, Secretary of the Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board, feels that egg distribution has particularly improved the overall nutrition statistics in the area.

As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5 figures published in 2019-21, child stunting in Karnataka stood at 35.4%. The latest figures from the State government show that the stunting numbers have dropped to 31% as of January 2026.

However, climatic, socio-economic, and behavioural vulnerabilities come together to make it an ordeal for the region to escape the vortex of chronic deprivation.

While several government initiatives have been introduced to tackle the challenge, lacunae in administration and inconsistent political attention have slowed down the implementation momentum in North Karnataka districts.

Information tabled in the Legislature in Feburary 2026 shows the highest percentage of severely stunted children in Vijayapura, Yadgir, Raichur, Kalaburagi, Koppal, Bidar, Ballari and Vijayanagara districts, ranging between 20% and 25%.

Given the semi-arid landscape that experiences erratic rainfall, the dietary habits in these districts were shaped by climatic and livelihood stresses and chronic poverty.

"Much of the region falls within drought-prone, rain-fed agro-climatic zones where recurrent dry spells have adversely affected agricultural productivity, household income stability, and access to diverse diets," says Khyati Tiwari, nutrition specialist, Unicef.

Not a lot more than roti and dal made it to the plate. This lack of dietary diversity limited protein and micronutrient intake.

Socio-economic disparities

Socio-economic disparities add another layer to the problem. The Kalyana Karnataka districts have consistently performed low in key human development indicators, such as female literacy, sanitation coverage, and maternal nutritional status.

"Poor maternal health and nutrition contribute significantly to adverse birth outcomes, particularly low birth weight, which increases vulnerability to early childhood wasting, and subsequently stunting," notes Ms. Tiwari.

High levels of anaemia among women and children have remained a critical concern. According to NFHS-5 data, anaemia prevalence among pregnant women exceeds 85% to 90% in Raichur and Koppal districts. This results in inter-generational transmission of under-nutrition.

Vidya Patil, a grassroots activist associated with Rajya Mahila Okkoota, has been working with women across several districts in Kalyana Karnataka. According to her, endogamy, child marriage, and short-interval pregnancies are common in the region, leaving the mother and infant nutritionally vulnerable.

Social vulnerabilities

Gaps also persist in child feeding practices. Delayed initiation of breastfeeding, inadequate complementary feeding after six months of age, and insufficient dietary diversity during early childhood compound the problem.

Widespread migration further complicates the issue. While government programmes have been introduced to track and monitor the health status of people, and provide them with nutritional supplements, seasonal migration from these districts to Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune, and other cities in search of jobs disrupts continuity of service delivery, and monitoring. Alcoholism within families is yet another villain.

Government intervention

To tackle the problem, from time to time, consecutive governments have attempted several initiatives. The ongoing ones include supply of supplementary nutritional food for children aged six months to six years, scheduled vaccination programmes for pregnant women and children under six years of age, health check-up for children enrolled in anganwadi centres, and Chiguru programme, which focuses on strengthening early childhood care and nutrition for children under six years by improving growth monitoring, caregiver counselling, and early identification of growth faltering through anganwadi platforms.

Officials have also been organising monthly nutrition camps to identify anaemic and undernourished women, where mothers are counselled on the importance of a balanced diet.

The government has collaborated with NGOs and civil society partners, such as Unicef, and Sri Sathya Sai Annapoorna Trust, on specific initiatives anchored in ICDS.

A lower equilibrium

According to Ms. Tiwary, the expansion and scale-up of initiatives, such as Mathru Poorna, improved access to nutritious meals for pregnant and lactating women, increased regular attendance at anganwadi centres, and created sustained platforms for counselling on maternal nutrition, breastfeeding and childcare practices during the first 1,000 days.

"Similarly, strengthened growth monitoring and early identification under Chiguru enabled improved detection and follow-up of children at risk of malnutrition," she adds.

Nalini Atul, Secretary of the Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board, feels that egg distribution has particularly improved the overall nutrition statistics in the area.

"The scheme was started in Kalyana Karnataka before it was rolled out in the entire State. I believe it has helped with protein supplementation in children. When we are looking at this area, where poverty and migration are on a higher side, it is coming from a very low-level equilibrium. One egg may or may not make much of a difference in other parts of Karnataka where you are at a different level of equilibrium. But the same will have a higher outcome in an area like this," he says.

Measurable gains

Comparison between NFHS-4 (2015-16) and NFHS-5 (2019-21), as well as district-level trends indicate moderate improvements in child nutrition outcomes across Kalyana Karnataka districts.

Official data from the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and the Poshan monitoring system indicate a decline in SAM (Severe Acute Malnutrition) and MAM (Moderate Acute Malnutrition) cases in Kalaburagi, Bidar and Yadgir districts over the past two to three years.

In Kalaburagi district, SAM cases stood at 7,276 in 2023-24. The figure reportedly dropped sharply to 707 in 2024-25, and further to 553 in 2025-26.

MAM cases showed a mixed trend. The district recorded 10,304 MAM cases in 2023-24, which increased to 11,401 in 2024-25 before declining to 7,760 cases in 2025-26.

In Bidar district, official data shows that SAM cases decreased from 763 in 2024-25 to 118 in 2025-26. MAM cases also declined from 5,650 to 5,108 in the corresponding period.

In Yadgir, 608 of the 1,04,246 children screened were found to be malnourished, with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) accounting for 0.48%, as of January 2025. Following intensified interventions, including improved egg supply and awareness campaigns, the number of malnourished children reportedly declined to 380.

Activists and field workers in the region, nevertheless, feel that progress has been slow. Alleging that officials are under pressure to show improved results, they say that statistical improvements don't always reflect ground realities.

A social activist, speaking on condition of anonymity, cited a recent instance in Aland taluk of Kalaburagi district where dietary supplements were allegedly not supplied to several anganwadi centres in November and December 2025. Claiming that there have been several such instances, she also alleges instances of anganwadi workers and anganwadi association leaders swindling dietary supplements in large quantities.

The shift from the hot-cooked meal model under Mathru Poorna to Take-Home Rations (THR) has proved less effective. While Mathru Poorna functioned not only as a nutrition intervention, but also as a social platform, which enabled gathering of pregnant and lactating women, and thereby collective learning, exchange of information and peer support, THR disabled this community aspect. Moreover, the ration meant to nourish the pregnant or lactating mother started getting split between family members.

Cultural barriers

Hafeez Ulha, State committee member of Bharath Gyan Vigyan Samiti, also points to cultural beliefs that hinder progress.

"Iron tablets distributed to pregnant women to combat anaemia are often not consumed. Many women believe that iron tablets will lead to excessive growth of the baby and complications during delivery, possibly requiring a Caesarean section," Mr. Ulha says.

Veena Rao, a former bureaucrat currently heading the Auro Society for Public Nutrition, was brought back by the State government in 2010 to shape the Karnataka Nutrition Mission. Despite promising results, the mission did not expand and was eventually subsumed within broader national and State nutrition programmes.

According to Ms. Rao, many women are not given additional food during pregnancy. "The reasoning is that it will keep the baby small, and facilitate an easy childbirth."

While the baby needs to be fed complimentary food after six months of birth and the government's answer to this is the supplements supplied through anganwadi centres (AWCs), in reality, it doesn't work that way, she points out.

"Women resume work soon after pregnancy due to financial pressures, and the supplements are not always collected. A baseline survey we carried out in 2023 in Yadgir showed 20% of infants not getting any complementary food alongside breast milk until they were nearly two years of age," says Ms. Rao, who has come across instances where diets consist of nothing but rice mixed with instant noodle masala.

She points to the market vacuum where baby food is not available at affordable rates for the poor.

Complaints about the low quality of supplementary nutrition, especially the health mix supplied to anganwadis, also surface.

"We collect the eggs and ration regularly from the anganwadi, but have stopped taking the nutritious powder mix. The quality is not good. We even complained to the anganwadi worker, but she seems to be helpless, and says that's what they are receiving," says Malli from Yadgir.

Several field workers report cases like that of Malli, where people either refuse to accept the powder, or mix it with fodder to feed cattle.

Implementation challenges

Ramanna N. Ganekal, leader of Kalyana Karnataka Vimochana Vedike in Deodurg taluk of Raichur district, says that while the national attention led to temporary improvements, sustained monitoring has weakened over time. Workload of anganawadi workers is another critical constraint.

Gopal Dabade, doctor and public health activist, feels that administration often takes on a feudal colour in many places.

Mr. Ganekal also points to practical barriers in accessing Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs). Mothers of severely malnourished children are advised to stay for 15 days at the NRC at Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences, where they receive nutritional support and a compensation of ₹2,500.

"But many women cannot leave behind other children, or elderly family members. Even if compensation is provided, they hesitate to get admitted. As a result, children miss critical treatment," he says.

Convergent efforts

Given the multi-sectoral nature of the problem, experts suggest that solving it requires sustained convergence across nutrition, health, water and sanitation, social protection, livelihoods, and women's empowerment interventions, with intensified focus on the first 1,000 days of life and high-burden geographies.

Adequate financial allocation to the region, timely fund disbursement and effective utilisation are key. There have also been appeals for setting up a Centre for Human Development in northern Karnataka.

Officials, however, insist that progress is happening, albeit slowly.

"There is increased focus from the State government to solve nutritional issues, including anaemia among girls (15-19 years). Further, the State is investing money into the region through KKRDB and putting money in the hands of the poor. It has certainly helped to improve the quality of food," says Mr. Atul.

"Even five years is a very small timeframe when it comes to improving education, nutrition and health indicators. It takes persistent and consistent effort, and quality staff. It's not that the region has not done well, but it's also that it has to pull a lot of weight and yet is expected to move at a fast pace."

(With inputs from Kumar Buradikatti, Ravikumar Naraboli and Praveen B. Para)

Karnataka statistics - (0 to 5 years)

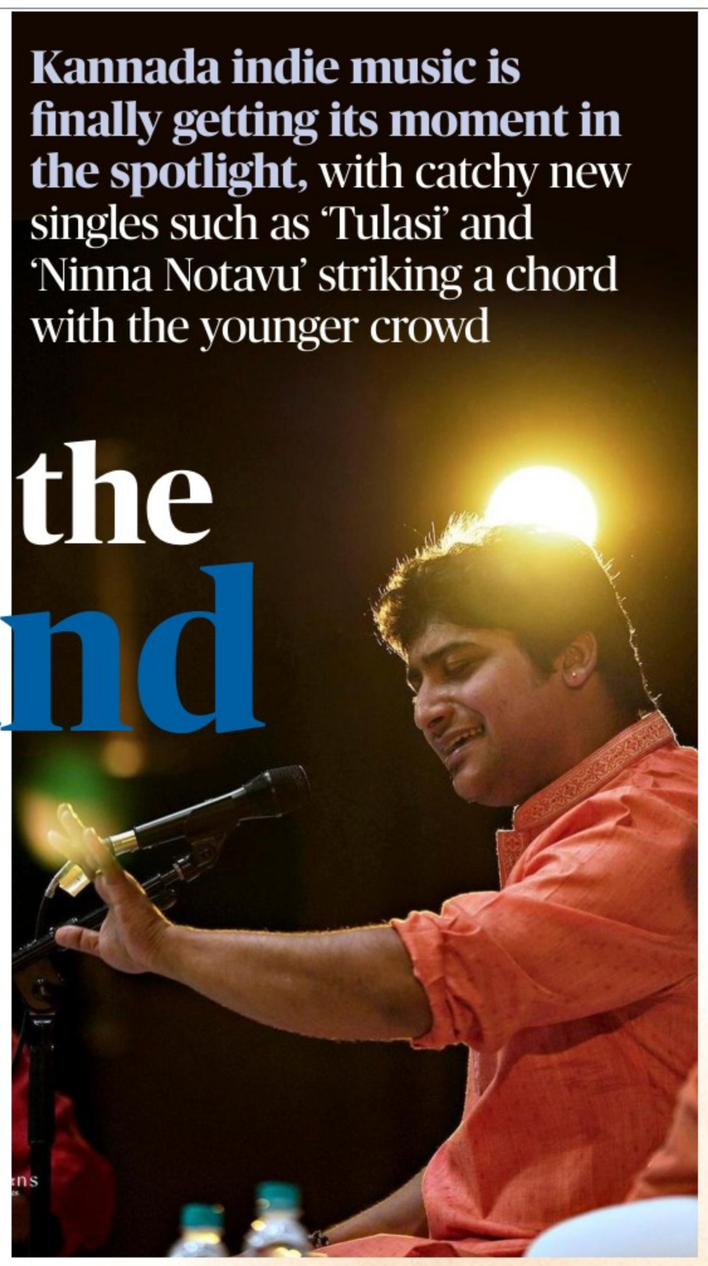
		Stunting (Height-for-age)		Wasting (Weight-for-height)		Underweight (Weight-for-age)	
Year	Total active children measured for the month	Severely stunted	Moderately stunted	SAM*	MAM**	Severely underweight	Moderately underweight
2022-23 (Mar-2023)	27,73,247	5,31,321 (19.16%)	5,45,290 (19.66%	73,300 (2.64%)	1,46,749 (5.29%)	1,27,871 (4.61%)	4,00,387 (14.44%)
2023-24 (Mar-2024)	29,37,263	6,47,169 (22.03%)	5,61,603 (19.12%)	77,482 (2.64%)	1,54,854 (5.27%)	1,21,107 (4.12%)	4,19,745 (14.29%)
2024-25 (Mar-2025)	32,37,856	6,63,342 (20.49%)	6,28,717 (19.42%)	10,791 (0.33%)	1,02,003 (3.15%)	91,181 (2.82%)	4,53,785 (14.01%)
2025-26 (Jan-2026)	29,44,951	4,20,358 (14.27%)	4,92,603 (16.73%)	6,632 (0.23%)	72,875 (2.47)	67,620 (2.3%)	3,37,816 (11.47%)

*SAM - Severe acute malnutrition | **MAM - Moderate acute malnutrition | *Source: Women and Child Development Department, Government of Karnataka*

Something old, something new (Clockwise from left) Musicians Neel Kote, Siddhartha Belmannu, and Tanmay Gururaj; the cover of 'Ninna Notavu'. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Kannada indie music is finally getting its moment in the spotlight, with catchy new singles such as 'Tulasi' and 'Ninna Notavu' striking a chord with the younger crowd

Tuned in to the heartland



The transformative Kannada indie music scene is characterised by creative freedom and accessibility. Artistes can express their true emotions.

SIDDHARTHA BELMANNU
Playback singer

Balarama V and SP Vishnu Saketh Bhattar

This is a golden period for Kannada independent music notes Siddhartha Belmannu, playback singer. Recent singles 'Thulasi' and 'Ninna Notavu', resonated widely on streaming platforms with their melodic hooks appealing particularly to younger listeners.

As the industry has relatively few musicians, recent collaborative efforts have offered hope for emerging artistes who are attempting to fill the gap in the indie space.

Tanmay Gururaj, a Kannada independent artiste, says, "With 'Ninna Notavu,' I composed something fresh. The industry has a lot of scope for indie music, and independent artistes must have the freedom to experiment ."

Making waves

Tanmay's work, 'Ninna Notavu', a melodious, romantic number has crossed 1.07 million streams on Spotify, while the music video for 'Thulasi' hit 5.6 million views. 'Thulasi', by composer Sumedh K of *Su From So* fame, fuses Purandaradasa's traditional kritis with contemporary elements.

"When streaming took over, independent music demanded technological literacy. But in India, we still approach it like cinema; music must come first, and the video should only reinterpret it," says Sumedh.

The production of the video, supported by Rectangle Films and Light Bucket Productions, prioritised creative intent over conventional formulas, resulting in a fantastic visual narrative.Key moments, such as an encounter in an enchanted forest, symbolise transformation and the reclamation of self.

Shaped through close collaboration with a committed team, the single also reflects the current state of independent Indian music videos, seeking to create space for authentic indigenous voices on a global platform.

The visual script of 'Thulasi' was developed by Neel Kote, a senior art director and producer.

"The journey of the video began with the music itself. I wrote in response to what the composition suggested rather than trying to control it, and the narrative gradually evolved around ideas of transformation and emotional release," says Neel, adding that independent Indian music videos still operate with limited reach and room for experimentation.

"Thulasi' is a small step toward creating space for indigenous voices to find a global platform without losing their cultural identity," he says.

Tanmay, who plays the tabla, says his inspiration is Tamil ace music composer Anirudh Ravichander. "Since childhood, I have played the tabla. While watching films, I observe how music elevates scenes and emotions. During the pandemic, I learned the piano, which drove me to create music," says Tanmay, who belives that indie music has grown significantly across India over the last two years. "However, the Kannada industry was lagging in terms of content," he says.

Trust in the process is his mantra for quality music, he believes. "I am currently working on a few songs, as I try to understand the audience's taste. There was no reference point in Kannada. I took my time with 'Ninna Notavu', trusted the process, and when I felt satisfied, I knew the audience would vibe with it," says Tanmay.

Going forward

According to Siddhartha, creative freedom in the independent system calls for bridging the gap between the singers and their audience.

"The transformative Kannada indie music is characterised by creative freedom and accessibility through platforms such as Spotify and YouTube. Artistes can express their true emotions, as opposed to film music, which is tailored to commercial demands."

The rise of social media, Siddhartha says has enabled connections and recognition for artistes such as Sanjith Hegde and Sumedh K.

"Support from sponsors and production houses is crucial for growth, as is integrating artistes into a royalty-based system to alleviate production costs."

The Kannada music scene, diverse in genres and dialects, has potential for further development, with artistes such as Raghu Dixit paving the way for sustainability in independent music.

"Digital platforms and live concerts have given us the freedom to create honestly and reach audiences directly, a phenomenon absent a decade ago. Independent music is reaching listeners, but is not yet at the scale it deserves," says Siddhartha.

STEPOUT

Unheard voices

What She Said, a play exploring the lives of six epic women, including Sita's sister Urmila, Kaikeyi's confidante Manthara, Ravana's sister Surpanakha, Vali's consort Tara, Ravana's queen Mandodari, and Shanta, Rama's sister, is to be staged. The play, written and directed by Gowri Ramnarayan, features Sunandha Raghunathan, Akhila Ramnarayan and Aarabi Veeraraghavan

At the Bangalore International Centre, Domlur, on March 8 between 7pm and 8.30pm. Entry is free.

Art for change

In celebration of International Women's Day, a group of 12 women artists are organising Avyanna, an art show presented by Oorja, an art collective. More than 60 artworks by well-known artists will be for sale, with proceeds going to Unnati Foundation, a Bengaluru-based social transformation program by SGBS Trust.

At the Bangalore International Centre, Domlur between March 6 and 8, from 11am to 8pm. Entry is free.

Santoor in the spotlight

Banyan Tree Events will present Symphony of Santoor: Echoes of Serenity in Bengaluru, featuring santoor exponent Rahul Shivkumar Sharma in collaboration with a 35-chamber orchestra. The concert, which will be conducted by Samuel Tamarit Otero of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra Pardubice, will place the santoor within a full symphonic framework.

At Chamara Vajra, Jayamahal on March 18, starting 8pm. Tickets, costing ₹1180 onwards, available at District by Zomato

Step into the weird world of scat

Bengaluru-based author Shweta Taneja will hold an interactive quiz-driven workshop about what animal droppings tell us

Bengaluru-based author Shweta Taneja, the author of the recently released *The Big Book of Wild Poop*, that explores how digestive waste tells stories of how animals live, think, feel, migrate, communicate and evolve, will be holding a workshop in the city titled the Ultimate Secrets of Wild Poop. This interactive quiz-driven workshop shows how animal droppings reveal diet, behaviour, and ecosystem health, making complex field science accessible to audiences aged seven and above.

"Poop can be disgusting. But it is the most natural process in the world," she writes in the book, pointing out that it happens because we eat. And yes, it is "a metadrive of information," something she constantly reiterates. For instance, "the wiggling invisible DNA inside the sticky, smelly stuff tells the story of how animals live, think, feel, migrate, communicate and evolve. Analysing this information, ecologists can figure out how to save them."

At the event, part of BIC's weekly Around the World in 50 Sundays programme, "Kids will learn how whale poop cools the planet, how rhinos communicate through their dung, how dung beetles find vitamins in scat, and even how traditional healers use wild poop in their treatment. It is packed with fascinating facts, puns, anecdotes and activities that teach children about the animal world as it makes them giggle," adds Shweta.

Ultimate Secrets of Wild Poop will be held at the Bangalore International Centre, Domlur, on March 8, between 11 am and 12.30 pm. Open to children aged seven and above. Entry free, but RSVP is required. Log in to the Bangalore International Centre's website for details

Nature calling Shweta Taneja. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The fourth edition of the Mahindra Percussion Festival 2026 brings The Pulse Within to Bengaluru this weekend

Tapping into the primal

Ruth Dhanaraj
ruth.dhanaraj@thehindu.co.in

"Without rhythm, melody would float off without direction. Percussion brings tempo, pulse, and groove; it is the structural backbone of music," says VG Jairam, festival director of the Mahindra Percussion Festival.

Talking about the upcoming Mahindra Percussion Festival 2026, he adds, "Percussion itself as a form of expression lies at the heart of music. It has been the heartbeat of music from ancient tribal gatherings to modern day concerts. Rhythm is humanity's most primal and powerful form of expression."

Titled, The Pulse Within, the festival, which will be held on March 7 and 8, will feature a range of genres, instruments and artistes who have curated special pieces for this event.

Jairam says the curation process included hardcore percussion artistes as well as "those extending their art form and musicality by putting percussion in the heart of their performance." He mentions vocalist Mahesh Kale who will be presenting Yatra, "the spiritual rhythmic sounds of India and how he is exploring an expression of infinity through rhythm."

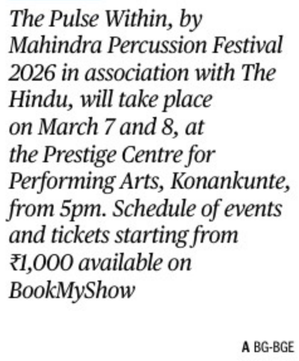
Jairam says though certain pieces at the festival are hardcore rhythm, "we are adding a bit of melody to it as well as voices, even while focussing on percussive elements in a strong way."

One of the highlights of the festival will be a collaboration between mridangist Umayalpuram K Sivaraman, tabla artiste Ishaan Ghosh and drummer Shravan Samsi, titled Nada Pravaham - Circle of Sound.

"If you look at Indian classical music – whether it is the tabla, ghatam or any other instrument that aids in the rhythmic cycle or *taal* – percussion is not purely decorative, but rather the key architecture of a piece," says Jairam.

The festival will see the presence of unusual instruments such as the parai. "Though this art form is associated with funerals in South India today, there is a lot of history behind it which has largely been forgotten. The overall objective of the festival has always been to make percussion more accessible and listener-friendly to the younger generation, so they see how deeply rooted it is in our culture."

In tempo A previous edition of the fest; Mahesh Kale (below) will perform at the Mahindra Percussion Festival 2026. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Another important segment of the festival is Women Who Drum, which will features musicians Swarupa Ananth, Charu Hariharan, Nush Lewis, Hamta Baghi, and Shalini Mohan. Grammy nominee Bickram Ghosh will be presenting Drums of the East at the festival.

"A lot of effort has gone into each of these curations and audiences are in for a treat as many of these pieces have been created specifically for this festival and have not been performed before. We hope to expose the younger generation to the rich, percussive culture of our country and the world with this festival," says Jairam.

The Pulse Within, by Mahindra Percussion Festival 2026 in association with The Hindu, will take place on March 7 and 8, at the Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konankunte, from 5pm. Schedule of events and tickets starting from ₹1,000 available on BookMyShow

HC directs inclusion of left-out 55 sq. km reserve forest area into Kappatagudda Wildlife Sanctuary

The Bench found an anomaly in the area of the sanctuary, as was approved by KSWB and the notification on declaration of sanctuary; the petitioners had claimed that the reduced area was declared as a sanctuary to benefit a few units

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the State government to issue a further notification to include the left-out areas of the Kappatagudda reserve forest as part of the Kappatagudda Wildlife Sanctuary in Gadag district, as per the resolution passed at the 11th meeting of the Karnataka State Wildlife Board (KSWB) in January 2019.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha issued the direction after noticing that only 244.15 sq. km area was declared as a wildlife sanctuary in the May 16, 2019, notification, even though the KSWB had on January 9, 2019, unanimously resolved to declare the entire 300 sq. km of Kappatagudda reserve forest as wildlife sanctuary.

The petitioners had sought a direction from the State government to confine the boundary of the Kappatagudda Wildlife Sanctuary to only 178 sq. km, as was initially proposed in 2017. FILE PHOTO

Petition dismissed
The Bench issued the directions while dismissing petitions filed by Shivaganga Stone Crushing Industries and other operators of stone-crushing units on patta lands in the immediate vicinity of the fourth block of the Kappatagudda reserved forest, challenging the May 16, 2019, notification.

The petitioners had contended that their business was affected due to the declaration of 244.15 sq. km of areas as a sanctuary, as their land comes under the eco-sensitive zone around the Kappatagudda Wildlife Sanctuary. They had sought a direction from the government to confine the boundary of the Kappatagudda Wildlife Sanctuary to only 178 sq. km, as was initially proposed in 2017. The petitioners had claimed an increase in the sanctuary area beyond 178 sq. km was without the approval of the National Board of Wildlife.

'To benefit few'
As the Bench found the anomaly in the area of the sanctuary, as was approved by the Board and the notification on declaration of sanctuary, the petitioners had claimed that the reduced area was declared as a sanctuary to benefit a few units, which are owned by influential persons.

In response to the court's query on why the area was reduced, the government counsel had told the Bench that no document is available regarding any decision to reduce the area of the sanctuary, while pointing out that there was an error in recording the area of Kappatagudda reserve forest as 300 sq. km when actual area is 288 sq. km.

Reducing the area of the sanctuary is *ex facie* arbitrary as it was contrary to the decision of the Board meeting chaired by the Chief Minister, and acted upon by the State government, the Bench said while directing the government to issue a notification to add the left-out area of 55 sq. km to the sanctuary.

Govt.'s view
However, the Bench clarified that if the government is of the view that it is necessary or expedient to exclude a part of the area from the boundaries of the sanctuary, then this order would not preclude the government to take a decision on altering the boundaries of the sanctuary (which includes the left-out portions of the reserve forest), in accordance with the law.

Delhi HC issues notice to eyewear company in GI infringement suit over 'Bidri' eyewear

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has issued notice to Lenskart Solutions Ltd. on a suit filed by five traditional artisans from Bidar in Karnataka alleging infringement of the registered Geographical Indication (GI) "Bidriware" and passing off machine-made products as authentic Bidri craft.

Justice Amit Bansal, in an order passed on February 25, directed that notice be issued to the eyewear company and listed the matter for hearing on March 13.

The suit has been filed by artisans Abdul Hameed, Md Aqeel, Md Habeebuddin, Md Mohsin and Md Muqeem, all residents of Bidri Colony in Bidar against use of stickers with the term 'Bidri' by the company on the lens of its eyewear product along with its logo.

The plea stated that they are registered authorised users of the GI "Bidriware", which was registered by the Karnataka State Handicrafts Development Corporation Ltd. in 2006.

Inlay work
The artisans said "Bidriware" is a special type of inlay work called damascening in silver. They said the process of production of "Bidriware" articles involves four stages, starting from casting to oxidation and is done by hand, making it a time consuming and costly process.

The artisans claim that their representative noticed the infringing products at one of the company's physical stores in Delhi

"Bidri" artwork involves multiple techniques, including Tarkashi, Tainishan, Zarnishan, Zarbuland and Aftabi, they added.

The artisans claimed that their representative noticed the infringing products at one of the company's physical stores in Delhi. They further claimed that the company's website lists several eyewear items under the heading "Bidri", and that the branding "Bidri by Lenskart" falsely suggests a connection with the traditional craft originating from the Bidar region.

The artisans also alleged that the eyewear features patterns resembling those typically found in Bidriware articles. However, they claimed that the products appear to be machine-made, unlike authentic GI-tagged Bidriware items which are handcrafted. The suit seeks to restrain the company from infringing the GI, passing off its products as Bidri craft.

"By marketing and offering for sale eyewear under 'Bidri by Lenskart', the defendant is indicating that the goods originate from or are connected with the Bidar region in Karnataka," the plaint states, adding that such use could mislead consumers regarding the geographical origin of the products.

Three generations
"Our families have created and refined the craft of Bidri over three generations living in Bidar, Karnataka. Our lives and work are built around this craft. Despite us getting the GI tag, bigger brands copy our designs and use the name of Bidri with impunity. We hope our legal action will prevent misuse of our heritage and people understand that they cannot use GI registered craft names for factory made cheap replicas," said Mr. Abdulhameed and Mr. Habeebuddin, both State award-winning artisans.

CM to present State Budget 2026–27 today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will present Karnataka's Budget for 2026-27 in the Legislative Assembly on Friday at 10.15 a.m., and it is likely to provide thrust on welfare schemes and infrastructure development in Bengaluru as well as backward regions.

Like last year's Budget, the 2026-27 budget is expected to project a revenue deficit, as the State is unlikely to achieve the revenue targets set for 2025-26 owing to various factors. The size of the Budget is expected to touch ₹4.20 lakh crore.

The 14-day session of the legislature will conclude on March 27.

Geo-political tensions
This will be Mr. Siddaramaiah's 17th Budget, and it is expected to highlight geopolitical tensions and criticise the BJP-led NDA government's policies, particularly the alleged discrimination in the devolution of funds, the scrapping or dilution of the MGNREGA, and the loss of revenue to the State following the rationalisation of GST by the Centre.

A huge portrait of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah created near the Mysore palace ahead of the presentation of his record 17th State Budget. M.A. SRIRAM

The Budget is expected to refer to the M. Govinda Rao Committee report on regional imbalances in the State and promise funds for the development of backward taluks. The report has identified 172 taluks as backward, with the highest concentration in the Kalaburagi division (42%), followed by the Belagavi division (34%).

Recruitment policy
The Chief Minister is likely to announce policy measures for recruitment in the government sector following protests by unemployed youth in Dharwad.

As the ruling Congress appears to be virtually divided over the issue of a possible change of Chief Minister, the Budget session is expected to provide a platform for both camps – that of Mr. Siddaramaiah and his deputy D.K. Shivakumar – to work out their respective political strategies.

Chance for Opposition
The Opposition is likely to use the session to corner the Congress government over the Budget proposals and the protest held by youth seeking government jobs.

As the Budget is expected to impose new or higher taxes on fuel and liquor to mobilise additional revenue, the Opposition is likely to target the government, arguing that it has been burdening people with taxes to fund the five guarantee schemes.

Issues such as the alleged diversion of funds under the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub-Plan, infrastructure bottlenecks in Bengaluru, and pending Contractors' Bill, alleged corruption in the government departments are expected to trigger heated debates between the treasury and the Opposition benches during the session.

A number of Bills, including an amendment to the Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Act, 2020, to allow vehicles used for illegal transport of cattle to be released on an indemnity bond, are likely to be introduced during the session.

Livestreaming in bus stands

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Budget presentation will be live-streamed on LED screens in 230 government bus stations across the State. This will be made available by the Department of Information and Public Relations in association with an outdoor advertising agency.

'Bankers, govt. departments should work in tandem to speed up development activities'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bankers and government departments should work in partnership to ensure smooth and seamless integration of developmental activities and their effective implementation across the State, said Uma Mahadevan, Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner, Government of Karnataka.

She was speaking at the 174th State Level Bankers' Committee meeting, where she advised lenders in the State to clear all the pending loan applications.

She reviewed how banks in the State performed in terms of total credit, total deposits, priority sector target achievements, under various sub-sectors, both bank-wise and district-wise. Further, she reviewed the performances of developmental schemes/government sponsored schemes in the State.

Ms. Mahadevan instructed all the bankers to onboard the National Rural Livelihoods Mission Self Help Groups/Business Correspondents (BC Sakhis) as BC Agents in all gram panchayats.

e-NWRs
Speaking on the occasion, Surendra Babu, Chief General Manager, NABARD, informed that lenders have to promote pledge financing through electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipts (e-NWRs). He urged the need to empower farmers through e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi (e-KUN) and elaborated on the preparation of District Credit Plan (DCP) at Block, Bank and Branch Level.

According to Bhavendra Kumar, Executive Director, Canara Bank, all the banks in the State, as on December 31, 2025, reported agriculture loan disbursements of ₹1,78,469 crore, as against the target of ₹2,22,203 crore, and achieved 80% of the allotted target in the third quarter.

Under the MSME sector, lenders achieved 86%, while the priority sector contributed 82%. He encouraged banks in the State to continue the good work.

Jan Suraksha schemes
Vishal R., Secretary to Government (FR), Finance Department, stressed the importance of coverage of the entire eligible population under the ambit of Jan Suraksha schemes. Kaya Tripathi, Regional Director, RBI, emphasised the preparation of a roadmap for Financial Inclusion 2025-30.

AITUC stages protest demanding immediate revision of minimum wages

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Workers affiliated to the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) staged a protest in Bengaluru on Thursday demanding the State government to immediately issue the final notification revising minimum wages and increase the variable dearness allowance (VDA).

A memorandum outlining their demands was submitted to the authorities.

Among the key demands, the workers urged the government to issue the final notification on minimum wage revision based on the draft notification issued on April 11, 2025, and to implement the revised wages retrospectively from 2022.

They also called for doubling the VDA rate from four paise to eight paise per Consumer Price Index (CPI) point, arguing that the present rate was inadequate to offset the impact of rising inflation and the increasing cost of essential commodities.

The unions further demanded that minimum wages be fixed based on the 2,700-calorie norm, in accordance with standards laid down by the Supreme Court to ensure that workers could meet basic needs such as food, clothing, housing, education and healthcare.

Another key demand was to address wage disparities affecting women workers, particularly in sectors such as garments, beedi rolling, agarbatti production and plantations, where labour groups said pay inequalities remain widespread.

The labour representatives pointed out that minimum wages in Karnataka were last revised in 2016-17, and the delay in updating them for nearly nine years had eroded workers' real incomes.

Stressing that minimum wages were a constitutional right and not a form of charity, the protesters warned that the agitation would be intensified if the government failed to take immediate steps to address their demands.

Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation
Phone No.0674-2431253, e-mail : info@bmc.gov.in
No.12393 , Dated 02/03/26

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT) - NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

On behalf of the Commissioner, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), **Dy. Commissioner (Mechanical), BMC** invites tenders through e-Procurement in conformity with terms and conditions of the tender document in Two Bid System (Part-I): General & Technical Bid and Part II: Financial Bid /Price Bid/BOQ) from intending bidders fulfilling the eligibility criteria and other qualifying requirements mentioned in this tender document for **"Mechanical Sweeping and Allied Cleaning of Select Road Stretches under Package-III of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation for a period of three years"**. Each bid should be submitted online through the website https://tendersodisha.gov .in by eligible bidders. The bidders should have necessary portal enrolment (Digital Signature Certificate) under **e-procurement process of Govt. of Odisha** in required class/category. For queries, if any on this tender document, intending bidders may contact Dy. Commissioner (Mechanical) /Dy. Commissioner (Sanitation)/ Executive Engineer (Sanitation), Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation.
Indicative design and technical specification in Clause-6 (Minimum Technical Specification of Mechanical Road Sweeper) of the bid document.

1.Schedule of Events:

S.No.	Description	Critical Dates
1	Period of availability of tender document for bidding	From 03.03.2026 (Time-11:00 AM) to Dt.23.03.2026 (Time 4.00 PM)
2	Pre-Bid Meeting	Dt. 06.03.2026 Time 12.00 Noon
3	Submission of Pre-bid queries by bidders to email id: dc-sanitation@bmc.gov.in	Dt.07.03.2026 Up to 5.00 PM
4	Last date and time for submission of proposal on online mode	Dt. 23.03.2026 (4.00 PM)
5	Date & Time of opening of Proposal	Dt.23.03.2026 (4.30 PM)

2. Other details can be seen in the bidding document available in website **tendersodisha.gov.in** (for view, download and bidding) and in BMC Website **www.bmc.gov.in** (for view and download only).
3. All amendments, Clarifications, time extension etc. will be uploaded in the website only. Bidders should regularly visit the above website to keep themselves updated.
4. Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof subject to the limitations prescribed by Central Vigilance Commission.

By Order of Commissioner, BMC
Dy. Commissioner (Mechanical), Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation

13001/503/2526 OIPR-13001/13002/1/25-26/0041

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE
DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

28th ANNIVERSARY

Shri. K.R. RAMAMANI
(Senior Advocate)

Fondly remembered by Family Members, Advocates & Staff of M/s. Subbaraya Aiyar, Padmanabhan and Ramamani Advocates

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981, 080 - 22071826 **Hubballi:** 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Rate for Karnataka:
Minimum: Rs. 320/- for 2 lines. Extra line: Rs. 160/-
B/W Display: Rs. 95/- per sq.cm; Colour Display: Rs. 105/- per sq.cm
For Placing Advertisements Online log on to www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

CPI(M) expels ex-MLA after he attends dissidents' convention

The Hindu Bureau
PALAKKAD

Communist Party of India (Marxist) dissident and former MLA P.K. Sasi was expelled from the party soon after he attended a convention of dissidents in Palakkad district of Kerala on Thursday. CPI(M) district secretary E.N. Suresh Babu announced that Mr. Sasi had been removed from the party's primary membership.

Mr. Sasi had earlier faced disciplinary action over alleged financial irregularities and was demoted from the district committee to the branch level. He had stepped down as chairperson of the Kerala Tourism Development Corporation two weeks ago.

While inaugurating the convention, Mr. Sasi launched a scathing attack on the party's State and district leadership.

Without naming State secretary M.V. Govindan, Mr. Sasi said the CPI(M) no longer cared for its workers as it did during the tenure of Kodiyeri Balakrishnan as State secretary. "Had Kodiyeri been alive, the CPI(M) would not have plunged to this State," he added. He maintained that the dissidents had not deserted the party.

Mr. Sasi recently held discussions with leaders of the United Democratic Front (UDF) and is learnt to have sought assurances regarding a possible candidacy in the upcoming Assembly election.

A.P. introduces incentives for families to have 3 children

The policy aims at raising TFR from 1.5 to 2.1; ₹25,000 to be given at time of delivery, and ₹1,000 monthly assistance for five years and free education till age 18; policy will come to effect on April 1

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu introduced the Draft Population Management Policy, whose objective is to raise the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) from 1.5 to an optimal level of 2.1, in the Assembly on Thursday, thereby reversing the declining fertility rate and prepare the State for an ageing society by 2047.

To encourage parents to have a third child, he proposed an incentive of ₹25,000, noting that inaction at this stage would cause a lot of problems like in Japan, Italy and South Korea with 1.2, 1.2 and 0.7 TFRs they were facing. The new policy had been targeted to be implemented from April 1, 2026.

> Andhra Pradesh is now mirroring Tamil Nadu (TFR of 1.4) and Kerala (1.6). We are no longer a high fertility State. The situation requires an entirely new policy playbook
>
> **N. CHANDRABABU NAIDU**
> Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister

"Andhra Pradesh is now mirroring Tamil Nadu (TFR of 1.4) and Kerala (1.6). We are no longer a high fertility State. The situation requires an entirely new policy playbook," Mr. Naidu.

Making a statement on the policy, the Chief Minister observed that the State's TFR was well below the replacement level of 2.1, and if the trend continued, nearly 23% of the population would be elderly. If the falling TFR was not stopped, the State would have a shrinking workforce and it would cripple the economy, he observed.

The State, therefore, set the goal to stabilise the TFR at 2.1 and nearly double women's participation in labour force to boost the Gross State Domestic Product by 15%.

Mr. Naidu said, as part of the efforts to increase the TFR, the government would give a "Poshana - Shiksha - Suraksha" package for the families having a third child, under which the incentive would be paid at the time of delivery and ₹1,000 monthly assistance for five years and free education to the child up to age 18.

He stated that as on date about 58% of the families (three lakh) had only one child, around 2.17 lakh families had two children, and nearly 62 lakh families had three or more children.

'One Nation-One Election is a certainty'

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

BJP Parliamentary Board member and OBC Morcha national president K. Laxman has said that simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies (One Nation - One Election) is a certainty, and that the party will register unimaginable victories in the South.

Addressing the media here on Thursday, Mr. Laxman said the BJP was making inroads into States that were hitherto strongholds of the regional parties, and the results would be seen sooner than later. He attributed the successes to the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, under whose stewardship India was poised to become the world's third largest economy in the foreseeable future. In contrast, he recalled how corruption had been rampant during the Congress era, citing former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's admission that "only 15 paise of every rupee reached the poor". Through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), the NDA Government disbursed ₹25 lakh crore without any corrupton, he claimed.

Mr. Laxman said the BJP-led NDA Government was firmly committed to the development of Andhra Pradesh and it was evident from the huge financial support being extended to the State for over a decade now. The massive funding for infrastructure works in Andhra Pradesh by the Centre was about to transform the State into a logistics hub. Railway projects in the State got ₹10,134 crore since 2024, he added.

The Hyderabad-Bengaluru and Hyderabad-Chennai high-speed rail corridors would enable the State to make rapid strides, he asserted. Further, he said more than 200 temples in Andhra Pradesh had been vandalised during the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government's term. Adulteration of the ghee used to make the Tirupati laddu prasadam was another proof of the YSRCP's attitude towards Hinduism, he observed.

Author M.T.'s daughter files defamation suit against three persons

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

Aswathy V. Nair, daughter of late writer M.T. Vasudevan Nair, has filed a defamation case against authors Deedi Damodaran, Echmukutty and publisher A.V. Sreekumar.

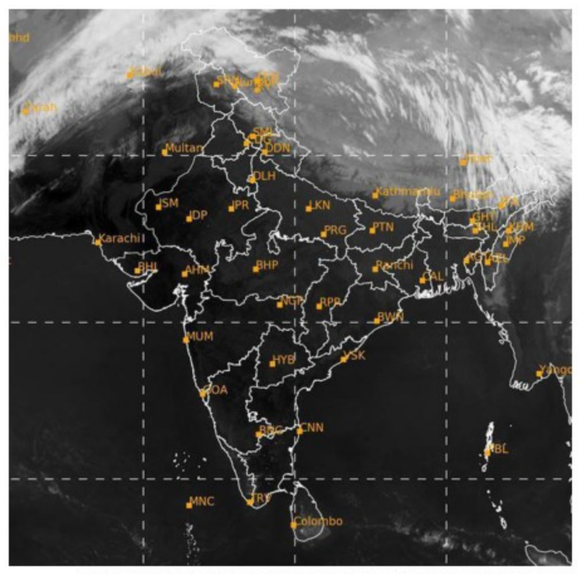
Earlier, Ms. Aswathy and her stepsister Sitara Girme had demanded the book, *Empty Space: Bashpeekruthayude Aaram Viral*, jointly written by Deedi Damodaran and Echmukutty and published by Sreekumar, be withdrawn, as it contained defamatory material about M.T.

Through the book the authors had alleged that M.T. had ill-treated his first wife the late Pramila Nair. Ms. Sitara and Ms. Aswathy through a joint post on social media had written that the book did not conform to facts. They had said that the book, published 26 years after Pramila's death and a year after M.T.'s death, was part of a foul attempt to achieve defamation and character assassination of their father and their families, and to create a controversy and help with book sales.

In the complaint, filed through advocate M.S. Saji, Ms. Aswathy said that through defamatory and insulting statements, the authors and the publisher of the book caused immense damage to her family and they succeeded in their intention to a great extent.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Hot and humid weather likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Konkan & Goa and coastal Andhra Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	32.7	18.5	Kozhikode	—	34.8	25.5
Ahmedabad	—	37.7	22.5	Kurnool	—	39.1	22.4
Aizawl	—	26.8	16.2	Lucknow	—	32.4	17.4
Allahabad	—	32.6	15.6	Madurai	—	37.0	23.1
Bengaluru	—	33.5	19.5	Mangaluru	—	32.6	23.9
Bhopal	—	34.6	15.0	Mumbai	—	38.9	22.0
Bhubaneswar	—	36.4	21.6	Mysuru	—	33.2	16.8
Chandigarh	—	33.1	16.9	New Delhi	—	34.3	18.2
Chennai	—	37.2	22.7	Patna	—	31.8	20.0
Coimbatore	—	35.0	20.5	Port Blair	—	32.0	23.1
Dehradun	—	31.0	14.6	Puducherry	—	33.0	22.8
Gangtok	—	21.8	12.4	Pune	—	37.6	21.0
Goa	—	32.8	24.8	Raipur	—	37.1	20.3
Guwahati	—	32.7	16.9	Ranchi	—	30.4	15.0
Hubballi	—	36.0	18.0	Shillong	—	21.8	11.2
Hyderabad	—	36.5	19.7	Shimla	—	28.0	16.4
Imphal	—	30.1	11.8	Srinagar	—	24.7	5.4
Jaipur	—	35.8	20.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.9	23.5
Kochi	—	30.8	25.4	Tiruchi	—	35.9	23.0
Kohima	—	22.3	10.5	Vijayawada	—	37.6	21.8
Kolkata	—	33.2	19.9	Visakhapatnam	—	32.3	23.1

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.15	..51	22	 56	...101	
Bengaluru	...5	..21	38	... 185	...182	
Chennai	...4	..21	.—	 67	...122	
Delhi	.47	..20	49	... 156	...240	
Hyderabad	.19	..16	43	 74	...103	
Kolkata	...3	..28	48	... 161	...129	
Lucknow	...5	..36	47	... 176	...148	
Mumbai	.95	..89	.—	 97	...104	
Pune	..—	120	42	... 149	...136	
Visakhapatnam	.26	..81	17	 99	...134	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byasanagar, Odisha recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 302 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Bhilai, Chhattisgarh recorded a healthy AQI score of 29

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

INBRIEF

Excessive explosive material caused Vetlapalem blast: SP

The owners of Surya Sri Fireworks (SSF) had stored a huge quantity of explosive materials, and had employed 30 workers at their firecracker manufacturing complex in Vetlapalem village, Kakinada district in order to meet the supply deadline set for March 3. The blast, which occurred in the SSF complex on February 28, killed 27 people– of whom 19 workers, including the owners' father, were burnt alive. Of the 11 survivors, eight have died while undergoing treatment at various hospital since February 28, and two are still on ventilator support.

SIT grills former MD of A.P. liquor body in scam case

The Special Investigation Team investigating the alleged multi-crore liquor scam grilled former A.P. State Beverages Corporation Limited Managing Director D. Vasudeva Reddy, who was also the Commissioner of Distilleries and Beverages, on Thursday. Reddy was questioned on changing the liquor policy, cash sales, collusion with other accused, and so on. The accused allegedly caused huge loss to the government. The police has so far identified 51 accused, of which 16 were arrested, the SIT officials said.

HC refuses to entertain fresh plea on '*The Kerala Story 2*'

The Kerala High Court on Thursday refused to entertain a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) plea seeking removal of 'Kerala' from the title of the film *The Kerala Story 2-Goes Beyond,* as a writ petition and an appeal regarding the matter were already pending before the court. A Division Bench had also passed an order permitting the release, so the court could not override it. The court warned the petitioners against attempting to cast aspersions on the court, following which, they offered an unconditional apology.

Erasing the past

An earthmover at work to demolish pillars of old Railway bridge across Krishna River, near Vijayawada on Thursday. K.V.S. GIRI

Two workers killed after falling from under-construction building in Hyderabad

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Two workers died after allegedly falling from an under-construction building during elevation work at Al-Hasnath Colony in Tolichowki, Hyderabad, on Thursday at 4 p.m.. The Mehdipatnam police have registered a case.

The deceased were identified as Tirupati Rao and Adinarayana. The incident occurred at a six floor under construction building at Nizam Colony, at about 4.15 p.m.

According to the police, workers were engaged in elevation work on the building and were standing on temporary scaffolding tied to the exterior when it suddenly collapsed, causing them to fall from a height.

Three persons injured in the incident were identified as R. Ramesh, 29, from Srikakulam, M. Ramesh, 35, a mason from Odisha, and Sk Lal Ahmed, 50, an autorickshaw driver from Ismail Nagar.

Police said the collapse caused damage to a car and two autorickshaws parked nearby.

The building is owned by Suleman and Naser, while the watchman at the site was identified as Shabnam Khatoon, 21, from Bihar.

ED files complaints in court against sea cucumber poaching

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Kochi Zonal Office, has filed prosecution complaints before the Special Court for Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) Cases, Kavaratti in Lakshadweep, against four persons in two separate cases relating to the alleged illegal hunting, possession, and attempted trade of protected sea cucumbers in 2018 and 2020.

The first case was registered against T.P. Mukbeel, 51, of Agatti in Lakshadweep, under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, for illegal hunting, possession, and attempted trade of sea cucumbers, which are Schedule-I species accorded the highest level of protection, equivalent to flagship species such as tigers.

In the second case,three persons were booked in connection with the seizure of 219 sea cucumbers at the western lagoon of Suheli Cheriyakara Island on January 11, 2020.

Sea cucumbers are highly valued in international markets, as a delicacy and as a traditional medicine product. Their illegal trade is a serious concern in Lakshadweep due to lucrative black-market prices.

Rajya Sabha election: Congress fields new face Christopher Tilak in T.N.

S.Ganesan
TIRUCHI

In a surprise choice, the Congress on Thursday nominated M. Christopher Tilak, a new face, for the Rajya Sabha seat from Tamil Nadu.

Mr.Tilak is the one of the secretaries of the All India Congress Committee and had been in-charge of the North Eastern states such as Manipur and Nagaland, party sources said.

A Christian, 53-year-old Mr.Tilak is an engineer who holds a management degree. Speaking to reporters after filing his nomination papers, Mr.Christopher termed himself as an "ordinary worker" who was "identified" by Rahul Gandhi. "Though am not well known, I will get myself introduced properly through my work for the people of the State," Mr. Christopher said while thanking the party leaders for vesting him with the responsibility.

Christopher Tilak

TNCC president K.Selvaperunthagai thanked the party leadership for rewarding an ordinary party worker who had "just a sovereign of gold and a cash balance of just Rs.13,000 as declared in his nomination papers". Echoing his sentiments All India Congress Committee in-charge for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, Girish Chodankar, said it was a proud moment that the party has nominated a youngster from an ordinary family who has devoted himself to party work. "The party is honouring hard working, talented youngsters," he observed.

Mr. Christopher had been maintaining a low profile in Tiruchi too where he is residing. "As he was in-charge of the North Eastern states, he has been largely away. However, ever since I took over I have been inviting him to party functions in the city. His nomination is a proud moment for the party," said L.Rex, Urban District Congress Committee president. With his nomination and the renomination of Tiruchi N.Siva by the DMK, Tiruchi district is set to gain a rather unique distinction of having three Rajya Sabha members at the same time. In June 2025, writer Rajathi Salma, hailing from Thuvarankurichi, was elected to the Rajya Sabha as the DMK candidate.

West Asia on fire

India should oppose the U.S.'s attempt to widen the war to the Indian Ocean

Six days after the unprovoked, illegal Israeli-American war against Iran began, West Asia has descended into chaos. When U.S. President Donald Trump launched the war, killing Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, other leaders and at least 160 schoolchildren, he called on Iranians to overthrow the Islamic Republic and take over state institutions. That did not happen. Iran retaliated by targeting Israel as well as American bases, assets and missions in the Persian Gulf region. Satellite image-based analyses suggest that Iran has struck communication and radar structures at seven U.S. military sites. Hezbollah, the Lebanese militant group, also joined the war with rocket attacks on northern Israel. In Iraq, pro-Iran militias have struck American assets in Erbil and other areas. The U.S. has confirmed that at least six service personnel were killed and three fighter jets were lost in Kuwaiti "friendly fire", according to the Pentagon. On March 4, the U.S. expanded the theatre of war to the Indian Ocean by torpedoing an Iranian warship, *IRIS Dena*, off Sri Lanka, killing at least 83 personnel. The ship was in the region for last week's International Fleet Review off Visakhapatnam. If Mr. Trump and his ally Benjamin Netanyahu believed that Khamenei's killing would lead to a collapse of Iran's government, the result has instead been an all-out regional war.

Neither side has shown any willingness to step back. U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth said on Wednesday that the conflict could last up to eight weeks. Ali Larijani, Iran's security chief, has ruled out talks with the U.S. and American media have reported that Washington is considering arming ethnic Kurdish militias in Iran's northwest to provoke internal unrest. This is a dangerous game. It appears that Mr. Trump launched the war without an exit strategy. As the Iranian state and its institutions show no signs of cracking, the U.S. has turned to massive bombardment and the prospect of fuelling civil strife in a country that it promised to "liberate" from clerical rule only days ago. If the war drags on, Mr. Trump is likely to face growing domestic resistance, with sections of his far-right base already calling it "Israel's war". For India, rising oil and gas prices will add to the burden on its economy, while a widening war could threaten the economic and physical security of the millions of Indians living in the region. New Delhi, which initially did not condemn the assassination of Khamenei, the leader of a friendly country, should take a more emphatic stand against the war and work with other powers to de-escalate the conflict. India should also strongly oppose U.S. attempts to bring the war to its backyard.

One for all

The DMK has managed to keep a major alliance partner happy

After the drama that lasted over a month over the issue of seat sharing for the Tamil Nadu Assembly election, the ruling DMK and its long-standing ally, the Congress, have done well by reaching an understanding without leaving room for rancour. Senior party leaders including Mallikarjun Kharge, P. Chidambaram and Kanimozhi helped both sides iron out their differences. The deal is now key for the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance (SPA) to finalise seat-sharing with other constituents, as the Congress is the coalition's second-largest member. Given that the DMK is negotiating with more smaller parties than before, the Congress should consider the allotment of 28 Assembly seats and one Rajya Sabha seat a fair deal. In the 2021 polls, it contested 25 seats, 16 lower than the 2016 tally. But, significant political changes in the State happened as almost all anti-BJP parties have rallied behind the DMK since then. Although the Congress and the DMK have contested elections together since 2016, with much success, the presence of the fledgling Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), led by actor Vijay, in the fray had prompted some Congress leaders to suggest aligning with the TVK which was open to a coalition regime – an idea not acceptable to the DMK and its traditional adversary, the AIADMK. Being a new force, it could offer more seats to the Congress than the DMK, along with power sharing. Apart from questions about the probability of success of such an electoral tie-up, Congress-DMK ties cannot be merely viewed in terms of numbers or the pursuit of power sharing.

The national party knows well the importance of the regional party in its scheme of things to improve its position, at the all-India level, if not get back to the original strength. In the general elections in 2019 and 2024, the SPA defeated the AIADMK and the BJP. Besides, the DMK, which is firm against the idea of a coalition government, swiftly fulfilled the Congress's demand for Rajya Sabha seats – now and in 2022; in contrast, Jammu and Kashmir's National Conference had, last October, offered a Rajya Sabha seat to the Congress despite unfavourable numbers. Along with its ability to transfer the most number of votes from Scheduled Castes and religious minorities in Tamil Nadu's southern districts, the DMK requires the Grand Old Party to flag, at the national level, issues concerning States in general and Tamil Nadu in particular, as the BJP-led Centre tries to limit the space for States. The Dravidian major and its leader, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, deserve commendation for having managed the allies well, with no grievances apparent. With a strong alliance in place, the SPA retains an edge over the AIADMK-led National Democratic Alliance in the State (it includes the BJP) despite anti-incumbency and a strong challenge from the TVK.

A selection of articles on the Editorial and Opinion pages, curated for International Women's Day on March 8

Transforming representation into real change by 2029

Barkha Deva

works on policy for dignified ageing and elder care

In 2029, India will have the most gender-representative Parliament in its history. The Women's Reservation Act will reserve one-third of the seats in the Lok Sabha for women – the largest single expansion of political representation this country has ever legislated. This moment has been decades in the making. If the next three years are squandered, it will not deliver what it promises.

There is an immediacy

Representation without an agenda is just presence. The women who walk into Parliament in 2029 will change what gets discussed only if the issues that matter to them have already been named, fought for, and demanded loudly enough to become political priorities. That work cannot begin in 2029. It has to begin now. And there is no issue more urgent, more invisible, or more ready to be addressed than this:India lacks a policy framework for elder care that clearly accounts for women – and there is no political tradition of demanding one.

Gauri is one of millions of women in India for whom this is not a policy abstraction. Her eighty-three-year-old mother lives alone in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, ageing the way most Indian women do: quietly, trying to hold on to her innate dignity, with almost no support from the state. Gauri travels back when she can, handling immediate emergencies and worrying about the rest – like so many daughters and daughters-in-law who hold two worlds together simultaneously. What keeps Gauri up at night is not the exhaustion. It is the recognition that she could end up ageing like her mother the same way. And she is done accepting that quietly.

What Gauri wants, for her mother, and for herself, is a state that builds the guardrails for women to age with dignity. She wants elder care treated as public infrastructure, not private misfortune. And she wants to know that when she votes in 2029 for the most representative Parliament this country has ever elected, its representatives will already know what she needs.

Parliament 2029 must transform women's lives, with its representatives well aware of what guardrails women need to age with dignity

An ageing India

India is ageing faster than its public conversation acknowledges. Over 100 million Indians are already above 60 years; that number will cross 250 million by the year 2040. Women will outlive men by four to five years on average, but those extra years have a compounded disadvantage: lower lifetime savings, broken employment histories, no assets in their own name, and no caregiver when they need one the most. The National Policy for Older Persons (1999) and the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme address the elderly through a lens of poverty and health, with no gender dimension. Ageing women are simply not a category the systems in India are built to recognise.

The cost of that invisibility is written in the numbers. A study, in 2023, in the journal Alzheimer's & Dementia, estimates that 8.8 million Indians over the age of 60 are living with dementia today, a number expected to nearly double by 2036 – with women disproportionately affected, more likely to be living alone when cognitive decline sets in, and less likely to have anyone looking out for them. This is what a state that never designed elder care around women actually produces. Parliamentary records reveal why it persists – the Parliamentary Questions database has virtually no questions on ageing women, there are no private member Bills, or committee attention. What Maharashtra showed recently is that the state can move quickly when it chooses to recognise the realities of women's lives. In January 2026, the State launched menopause clinics across 580 government facilities, backed by decades of advocacy. The result was that over 31,000 women came forward in five weeks.

They had been waiting, in silence, for the State to name their reality. Elder care and dignified ageing wait for the same decision.

The need for insight

Political parties are already preparing candidate pipelines for the reserved seats. But fielding women is not the same as changing what Parliament talks about. The women and men who will make the Parliament of 2029 count are those who arrive having read the room – who understand that representing women means representing the full arc of their lives; not just the years of careers and children, but the decades that follow, when every gap the state has ignored becomes a daily reality. That understanding must be built into the candidate, the campaign, and the manifesto – through a census that captures age- and gender-disaggregated data, budgets that report elder care spending transparently, and parties that make dignified ageing a political commitment before the election, not after.

When Gauri votes in 2029, she will be thinking about all of this. She will be thinking about her mother, and about herself, and about whether this Parliament, the most representative in India's history, can build the country that women like her were promised. Three years is enough time to get this right. We cannot afford to get it wrong.

Protecting women's rights amid conflict and instability

Archana Ramasundaram

retired from the Indian Police Service as a Director General of the Sashastra Seema Bal, a central armed police force. She has also served as Member, Lokpal of India

International Women's Day is once again in our midst. Observed globally on March 8, the day has evolved from its early 20th century labour roots into a leading platform for deliberating on women's rights, celebrating achievements and demanding concrete action toward gender equality. Officially recognized by the United Nations (UN) in 1977, the day continues to serve as both a celebration and a call to action.

Rights, justice and action

For 2026, the UN has chosen "Rights, Justice, Action: For All Women and Girls" as the global theme for International Women's Day. While these words resonate powerfully, affirming women's rights to equality and justice, the reality remains far from supportive of translating this theme into a practical programme. The unpleasant truth is that this ambitious call for action is against the ominous backdrop of a world marked by conflict, displacement, economic instability and political uncertainty. Multiple wars and conflicts are raging in several parts of the world.

Relentless targeted attacks by warring nations have already claimed so many lives and caused the destruction of several strategic locations. Those killed include a large number of women and children. What is worse, instead of de-escalation, we are witnessing a hardening of positions on all sides, with no early cessation of hostilities in sight.

What do these conflicts portend for living conditions and rights of women and children?

Gender equality is not a privilege but a fundamental human right. But it is easier said than done, more so in a world facing multiple crises in which women and children are the most vulnerable. Research and field studies have clearly established that women and girls suffer disproportionately in wars. Conflict and insecurity dramatically escalate incidents of gender-based violence, food insecurity, restricted mobility or forced displacement, disruption of families, loss of livelihood, breakdown of social support systems and lack of access to health care and education. Women trapped in conflict zones are also targeted as a strategy of war. Rape and sexual violence against women have been committed during wars since ancient times to subjugate and humiliate the enemy.

Global instability makes this year's International Women's Day theme urgent

Many women also suffer mental health issues such as depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder. The side-lining of women in peace talks and reconstruction processes further reduces their chances of addressing these problems.

Promises but no progress

Acknowledging the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on women and girls, the UN Security Council, on October 31, 2000, unanimously adopted the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. It was affirmed in this historic resolution that women must be protected during conflicts and included actively in peacebuilding processes. Yet, the gap between commitments and implementation continues to remain wide. While a few countries have developed national action plans to implement Resolution 1325, no tangible change is noticed on the ground.

In fact, the conditions for women and children have worsened over these decades. Inequalities have become more acute in many places, with wars and political instability further weakening the institutions for the protection of women. The UN Secretary-General Report on Women, Peace and Security for 2025 categorically states that the world is experiencing the highest number of active conflicts since 1946, resulting in unprecedented risks and suffering for women and girls. The report adds that nearly 676 million women live within 50 kilometres of deadly conflicts, the highest level since the 1990s. Civilian casualties among women and children quadrupled when compared to the previous two-year period. Conflict-related sexual violence increased by 87% in two years.

Moreover, despite overwhelming evidence that women's participation makes peace more durable, they remain largely excluded from decision-making. In 2024, nine out of 10 peace processes had no women negotiators, with women making up just 7% of negotiators and 14% of mediators globally. This is despite the research consistently showing that peace agreements are more durable when women are meaningfully involved in these processes.

Rights require action

Women, being important stakeholders as well as victims of war, should be given equal opportunity to participate in talks and other processes. Women's collectives and global bodies should also play a more action-oriented role instead of confining themselves to slogans and conferences. Women and children in conflict zones should be protected from violence and sexual exploitation. In fact, helping them with food, education, health care, financial assistance and also emotional support is the duty of other stakeholders as well.

This underscores why the 2026 emphasis on rights and justice is both urgent and essential, making International Women's Day more than a calendar date and a reminder that protecting women's rights amid conflict and instability is a collective responsibility.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ship sinking, implications

The destruction of an Iranian warship by a U.S. submarine near Sri Lanka is a complete violation of international law (Front Page, March 5). The ship was returning from a peaceful naval exercise hosted by India, which is supposed to be a neutral party. Sri Lanka also maintains a policy of neutrality. This is absolutely unprovoked action against the Islamic Republic, even if justified on the pretext of wartime action.

Vijaya Segara Ramsait,
Courtallam, Tenkasi, Tamil Nadu

Without disguising his glee at the sinking of the Iranian vessel, U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth boasted that Iran was under the illusion that the vessel was safe in international waters. It was clearly an act of military overreach.

The U.S.'s claim that this war is being fought in the interest of Iranians is belied by the fact that over 1,000 Iranian civilians have lost their lives to the war. The deadly strike on a school has claimed the lives of innocent students. If it is not an act of inhumanity, what is it?

Washington speaks of "regime change" in Tehran. By the same logic, Tehran must also have the right to speak of "regime change" in Washington. In any case, it is a collective failure of our civilisation that there has been no worldwide movement against war and for peace at a time when a dangerous war is playing out in West Asia. The United Nations Organisation has become powerless to prevail on world powers, in the present context, the US and Israel, to de-escalate and opt for diplomacy.

G. David Milton,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

The reported sinking of the Iranian vessel inevitably acquires political meaning when viewed alongside Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Israel and his visible warmth with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Even if operationally unrelated, the timing reinforces the perception that India has tilted toward the U.S.-Israel axis in the confrontation with Iran.

For decades, India's West Asia policy has rested on careful balance — engaging Israel for defence cooperation while sustaining ties with Iran for energy and connectivity. That equilibrium now appears strained. Symbolic gestures in a region already aflame inevitably carry geopolitical weight.

To some geopolitical observers, the episode may even appear as further confirmation of a tightening U.S.-Israel strategic axis shaping the present conflict, with other regional actors reduced largely to spectatorship.

Some analysts go further, suggesting that India risks appearing marginal to the unfolding Gulf crisis. Despite its proximity and deep stakes — energy security and the safety of millions of expatriates — New Delhi's diplomatic role has been muted. The challenge is not merely optics but restoring credibility as a balanced and consequential regional actor.

M. Jameel Ahmed,
Mysuru

The audacious attack on an Iranian ship in the Indian Ocean, in territory that is near to Sri Lanka, is proof that the U.S. has scant regard for the rights of countries such as India and Sri Lanka over their territorial waters. The torpedo attack by a submarine again puts it beyond the pale of doubt that U.S. submarines are prowling through seas and oceans.

C.V. Aravind,
Bengaluru

The incident highlights growing militarisation in the Indian Ocean, a region vital to South Asia's stability. India's silence is striking, given its role as the largest resident power and self-styled "net security provider."

Unchecked military actions by extra-regional powers threaten freedom of navigation under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and risk turning the Indian Ocean from a zone of cooperation into a theatre of confrontation.

This also challenges India's Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) doctrine, which seeks stability and collective security. A measured diplomatic response, emphasising restraint, transparency, and adherence to international law, would protect India's interests and reinforce its credibility.

Balancing ties with the U.S. and Iran while asserting India's strategic position is essential to prevent the Indian Ocean from becoming another arena of great-power rivalry.

Rajesh C.R.,
Bengaluru

Seat sharing talks

The amicable conclusion of seat-sharing talks between the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the Indian National Congress in Tamil Nadu has put an end to speculation about a possible rift between the two allies.

Although the Congress does not enjoy a substantial vote base in Tamil Nadu, except in pockets such as Kanniyakumari district, its secular credentials and national stature could reinforce the alliance's campaign narrative. The DMK has been projecting the contest as one between its secular coalition and the divisive politics of the Bharatiya Janata Party at the Centre. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has demonstrated his political acumen.

M. Jeyaram,
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Is the Supreme Court doing enough to tackle hate speech?

Shahrukh Alam

advocate practising at the Supreme Court

Haris Beeran

advocate and Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament

PARLEY

On February 26, the Gauhati High Court issued notice to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma after hearing a batch of petitions seeking criminal prosecution against him for alleged communal and divisive speeches. The petitioners had initially approached the Supreme Court (SC) with their complaints but a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India, Surya Kant, remarked that whenever elections approach, the Court tends to become a political battleground, and consequently directed the petitioners to approach the Gauhati High Court. Earlier in January, another Supreme Court Bench indicated that hate speech matters pending before the Court since 2021 would be closed. The Bench, however, clarified that the parties remained free to pursue other legal remedies, including approaching the High Courts (HCs). Is the Supreme Court doing enough to tackle hate speech? Shahrukh Alam and Haris Beeran debate the question in a discussion moderated by **Aaratrika Bhaumik**. Edited excerpts:

What is hate speech, and what makes its criminalisation so difficult in practice?

Shahrukh Alam: Hate speech does not always take the form of explicit incitement to violence. More often, it operates as a prejudicial discourse that marginalises particular communities. This in turn, makes the task of defining hate speech for the purposes of criminalisation inherently difficult. Not every divisive expression can attract penal consequences. The threshold for criminal sanction must be higher. Further, the analysis of hate speech cannot be divorced from questions of power – its harm lies not merely in the content of the speech but in the unequal social hierarchies within which it operates. Hate speech entrenches a democratic deficit because it is typically directed at groups that are already socially or politically vulnerable, thereby reinforcing existing patterns of exclusion.

Haris Beeran: The difficulty in criminalising hate speech lies partly in the role that perception plays. Hate speech does not always manifest as direct incitement to violence. It often operates through dog whistles – statements deliberately framed with a degree of ambiguity that allow speakers to claim plausible deniability. The impact of such speech is shaped not merely by what is said but also by how it is perceived. This ambiguity makes it difficult to delineate clear thresholds for criminal liability.

Seeking redress: A protest against alleged irregularities in the SIR and Assam CM's remarks on Bengali-origin Muslims, in Guwahati, on February 7. PTI

Should hate speech be treated as a constitutional tort?

SA: Yes. Even in instances where there are open calls for violence through speeches, the response from the state and its functionaries is often conspicuously absent. When the state repeatedly fails to respond to such speech, constitutional tort provides a basis to hold it accountable. The principle underlying this approach is that where the state's inaction results in harm, it must assume responsibility – by acknowledging that failure or by compensating those who have been wronged.

HB: The growing prevalence of hate speech is closely linked to the conduct of the ruling dispensation. Electoral strategies increasingly rely on the deployment of communal rhetoric to capture public attention and secure electoral dividends. When such rhetoric emanates from the highest levels of political leadership, lower-level functionaries inevitably seek to emulate what they perceive to be the expectations of their leadership. The problem is further compounded by the absence of a credible institutional response. State authorities, such as the police, and even bodies like the Election Commission of India (EC), often fail to intervene effectively. As a result, hate speech ought to be recognised as a constitutional tort. Such an approach would enable courts to fix accountability and award compensation.

How effective has the Supreme Court's intervention been?

HB: In 2018, in *Tehseen Poonawalla vs Union of India*, the SC laid down detailed directions to curb mob lynching and prevent other hate

> Hate speech does not always take the form of explicit incitement to violence. More often, it operates as a prejudicial discourse that marginalises particular communities. This, in turn, makes the task of defining hate speech for the purposes of criminalisation inherently difficult
>
> **SHAHRUKH ALAM**

crimes, including the appointment of nodal officers in the States. This was followed in 2023 by a further direction requiring States to *suo motu* register FIRs in cases of hate speech. Despite these directives, what we continue to witness are flagrant violations. While it may be difficult for the Court to monitor compliance in every instance, it ought to initiate contempt proceedings against State officials who fail to act. The Court is also vested with powers under Article 142 to pass orders necessary to do "complete justice" and to protect vulnerable communities. Yet, the Court has at times been reluctant to exercise these powers. For instance, it declined to take action against Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma over his communal remarks and instead relegated the petitioners to the High Court. The Court bears a constitutional responsibility to intervene.

SA: The SC's prior directives on hate speech are being observed more in their breach than in their observance. It was precisely for this reason that petitioners urged the Court not to close the hate speech proceedings and instead treat them as a continuing mandamus. Such an approach would have ensured that the matter remained under the Court's supervision, allowing it to monitor compliance and intervene whenever breaches occurred. However, the Court closed the proceedings. More importantly, it is evident that law enforcement authorities are frequently failing to act even in cases involving the most virulent forms of hate speech. This reflects a clear abdication of constitutional duty. It is also crucial for the Court to recognise that the problem of hate speech cannot be framed as a dispute between equals. In reality, hate speech is fundamentally about power – about dominant groups using speech as a means to exclude and silence those who are more vulnerable.

Should India introduce specific criminal provisions on hate speech, as recommended by the Law Commission?

HB: Dedicated provisions may be welcome, but the real challenge lies in their effective enforcement. India already possesses a range of legal provisions capable of addressing hate speech. For instance, the Representation of the People Act, 1950, contains provisions that empower the EC to act against candidates who resort to hate speech during election campaigns. Yet, in practice, there is little evidence of these powers being exercised with any consistency. Unless the political climate changes, the politics of hate will continue to persist.

SA: Even if penal provisions on hate speech were introduced, their application would remain vulnerable to arbitrariness. The law in its current form is often insufficiently attentive to the social and political contexts within which such speech operates. While some forms of speech may merely offend or hurt sentiments, other forms of incendiary rhetoric can deepen democratic deficits by further marginalising communities that are already vulnerable. At the same time, it would be misguided to look to the law alone for solutions. What is required is the building of a broader social consensus that resists falling prey to stereotypes, tropes, and propaganda directed at targeted communities.

Could the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025, serve as a precedent for a central law on hate speech?

SA: Although well-intentioned, my reservation about the Bill is that it fails to adequately recognise the discriminatory dimension of hate speech. Its emphasis remains on injury, offence, or disharmony – concepts that are typically framed as law-and-order concerns, rather than on the structural realities of discrimination and marginalisation that hate speech often produces. A further concern is that several of the Bill's definitions are overly broad, creating the risk of arbitrary application.

HB: The Bill must first be enacted and then tested through implementation. Its effectiveness can only be assessed once it begins to operate in practice. There are certain conceptual gaps in the current formulation, particularly in the definition of hate speech, which does not adequately address issues such as discrimination. These limitations have to be addressed through subsequent amendments.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

The systemic invisibility of women's midlife health

Sathya Sriram

India's focus on women's health during their child-bearing ages has been one of its most significant public health achievements. The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has fallen from 362 per 1,00,000 live births in 2000 to about 80 per 1,00,000 in 2023. Through the National Rural Health Mission and subsequently, the overarching National Health Mission (NHM), several initiatives expanding institutional deliveries, skilled birth attendants, better antenatal and post natal care have enabled these outcomes. This work is still ongoing, since access to safe pregnancy, childbirth and reproductive autonomy is highly variable across the country.

However, women's health does not conclude when childbearing years pass. The decades that follow, when autoimmune conditions emerge, perimenopause begins, cardiovascular risk and cancer incidence increase, receive far less structured attention. In policy, practice and perception, these years remain largely invisible.

As India's disease burden shifts to the increasing prevalence of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), women in their 30s and 40s are experiencing higher rates of chronic diseases, such as hypertension and thyroid disorders, with 106 per 1,000 women reporting at least one NCD compared to 65 per 1,000 men.

Health and social blindspots

The invisibility of women's midlife health is embedded in the way medicine diagnoses and treats disease. For example, women experience heart attacks differently from men, with symptoms such as fatigue, nausea, anxiety or back pain rather than the classic chest pressure or pain. When the widely communicated default symptom profile is male, women's emergencies are likely to be misread or detected late. Some midlife conditions that are more prevalent among women, such as autoimmune disorders, frequently present as generic symptoms like fatigue, cognitive fog, and diffuse pain, and are therefore not often investigated clinically. Historically, conditions that affect women differently and disproportionately have received less research attention and therapeutic innovation. The speculum, used widely in gynaecological examinations, has not evolved since it was first invented in the 19th century.

These blind spots extend to the design of objects and spaces in everyday life. Women are biomechanically different from men, carrying their centre of mass lower in the body. Yet chairs and desks at the workplace, protective equipment and rehabilitation devices are designed around a male default. In addition, the social realities of women delaying medical help, prioritising family responsibilities, and dismissing early symptoms further reinforce this invisibility, resulting in late diagnoses and more complex treatment.

Addressing these invisible aspects of women's health needs a shift from focusing narrowly on specific stages to adopting a life-course approach, which recognises the impact of early exposures, lifestyle factors and social determinants over time. India has been laying the foundation for a life-course approach by extending Health and Wellness Centres beyond maternal services to include prevention and management of chronic diseases. Population-based screening for breast and cervical cancers by the NHM is a step towards recognising the health risks that emerge in midlife. Broadening the program to include conditions such as anaemia and autoimmune disorders along with greater awareness of the symptoms could significantly strengthen early detection and care for women. However, the promise of these programmes will depend on the deployment of sufficient frontline capacity and resources.

As India strengthens its pharmaceutical and medical device innovation ecosystem, there is an opportunity to address long-standing gaps in women's health research and diagnostics.

For generations, women have been conditioned to prioritise the health of their families before their own. True to this Women's Day's theme, 'Give to Gain', one must encourage vigilance among the women in our lives to pay more attention to their bodies. Investing in women's health is more than an act of equity. It is an investment from which families, workplaces, and the economy stand to gain.

Sathya Sriram is a healthcare strategist with over two decades of private and public sector experience

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Raging flames

Holy embers: The ritual of Holika Dahan in Chennai. It is usually performed a day before Holi, and involves lighting a bonfire around which people gather to perform prayers and offer grains. It symbolises the victory of good over evil. It is also a seasonal marker, as it heralds the arrival of spring and the end of winter. RAGU. R

FROM THE ARCHIVES — The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 6, 1976

Move against BBC film on Asian immigrants

London, March 6: A British Labour member of Parliament has denounced as "abominable, racist and fascist", the film on Asian immigrants shown on British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) television last Saturday and demanded the sacking of BBC's Director-General, Sir Charles Curran.

Mr. Sydney Bidwell, who represents Southall, told a press conference last night that the film was a concoction by the National Front and could not do race relations any good. "We will not leave it alone. The protest will rumble on and grow", he said, "after talks he and a representative delegation had with senior officials of the BBC."

The delegation consisting of the President of Indian Workers Association, Mr. A.S. Rai, General Secretary, Mr. M.S. Padda and Mr. Kadri, General Secretary of the standing conference of Pakistani organisations said the BBC tried to defend its programme by saying it was in the interests of free speech.

After failing to persuade BBC not to repeat the programme scheduled for this Saturday the Indian Workers Association decided to move the High Court for an injunction to bar BBC from proceeding with its programme.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 6, 1926

Bats as preventive for Malaria

Dr. C.A.B Campbell, of Texas, has put forward the proposition that the bat is the most effective enemy of mosquito and claims that by artificial means he can make conditions suitable for the breeding of bats that they would be able to reduce mosquitos so greatly as to make them a negligible factor in the area in which the bats operate. Mr. H.F. Carter, the Ceylon Government Medical Entomologist was not at all sanguine as to the efficacy of this method.

From Page One

Nitish files his RS papers ahead of exit as Bihar CM

Apart from Mr. Kumar and Mr. Nabin, the other NDA candidates are former BJP MLA Shivesh Kumar, JD(U) leader and Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ram Nath Thakur, and Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM) chief Upendra Kushwaha. Both Mr. Thakur and Mr. Kushwaha are seeking re-election to the Upper House.

Though there had been buzz that Mr. Kumar's son Nishant Kumar would formally join the JD(U) on Thursday, there was no confirmation from the party. "Chief Minister Nitish Kumar wants to make Nishant Kumar joining the party as a separate event," a JD(U) source said.

It is expected that once the senior Mr. Kumar shifts his political base to Delhi, his son may be appointed one of two Deputy Chief Ministers from the JD(U) under a new regime headed, for the first time in Bihar, by a Chief Minister from the BJP. The names doing the rounds for the top post include current Deputy CM Samrat Choudhary, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai, and Bihar Industries Minister Dilip Jaiswal. Some NDA leaders claimed that Mr. Kumar would "continue to guide and lead the NDA in Bihar".

JD(U) workers protest

A section of JD(U) workers protested Mr. Kumar's decision outside his official residence and party headquarters in Patna, shouting slogans saying, "*Nitish Kumar zindabad*", and "*Hum Nitish Kumar ko Bihar nahi chhodne denge* [We will not let Nitish Kumar leave Bihar]". Some party workers flipped furniture at the headquarters, though police were deployed there as well as at the Bihar legislature and the CM's residence. "We braved *lathis* to make Nitish Kumar the Chief Minister," said an emotional JD-U worker.

Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav, the Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly mocked Mr. Kumar's decision. "I express my sympathy for Nitish Kumar ji. He has been hijacked by BJP leaders... His mental condition is not good, he said. "The core voters of the JD-U feel cheated. It's a betrayal of mandate."

He also accused the BJP of usurping power. "The Maharashtra model has been implemented in Bihar as well. It is well known that the BJP has gobbled up its alliance partners in several places," Mr. Yadav told journalists in Patna. "Whoever becomes the new Chief Minister of Bihar, he will be a rubber stamp of the BJP," he added.

In a post on social media, his sister Rohini Acharya claimed that Mr. Kumar has become a "puppet of the BJP", terming his actions as the "pinnacle of opportunism". RJD Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Kumar Jha drew parallels between Mr. Kumar and Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro who was captured by U.S. forces earlier this year. "What happened here is similar to what happened with Maduro in Venezuela, kidnapping with consent," he said.

Tamil Nadu, Bengal Governors changed

Observing that the reasons behind his resignation were not known to her at this moment, the Chief Minister said she "would not be surprised if the Governor has been subjected to some pressure from the Union Home Minister to serve certain political interests on the eve of the forthcoming State Assembly elections".

"Union Home Minister just informed me that Shri R.N. Ravi is being appointed as Governor of West Bengal. He never consulted with me as per the established convention in this regard," Ms. Banerjee said.

She added that such actions undermined the spirit of the Constitution of India and struck at the very foundation of the federal structure.

Sri Lanka evacuates second Iranian ship

Meanwhile, the 32 sailors who were rescued by the Sri Lankan Navy from *IRIS Dena* on Wednesday continue to receive treatment at a public hospital in southern Galle district, Sri Lankan officials said. The distress call from the Iranian warship – returning after participating in the 'International Fleet Review 2026' held in Visakhapatnam last week – came early on Wednesday, from around 40 nautical miles off the island's southern coast. The Navy has recovered 84 bodies since Wednesday, and has been continuing the search operation even as dozens are missing.

Foreign Minister in Delhi

Amid growing concern over the regional implications of the war in West Asia, Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath arrived in New Delhi on Thursday to attend 'Raisina Dialogue', the high-level annual global forum hosted by India on international and strategic affairs.

While neither New Delhi nor Colombo has directly responded to the U.S. claiming responsibility for torpedoing the Iranian frigate south of Sri Lanka, Mr. Herath said on X on Thursday that he spoke to Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi "on the rapidly evolving situation in the Middle East."

The post made no mention of attack on the Iranian frigate. The Minister said: "Sri Lanka expressed grave concern over the escalation of hostilities and reaffirmed the importance of diplomatic dialogue to restore regional peace."

'Kalyan Singh told an utter lie on Babri Masjid'

The former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister had said in court that he would see to it that no demolition would take place and that the police would stop the *kar sevaks*, says former Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal; but no such efforts were made as Singh was prepared to mislead the court, he adds

INTERVIEW

K.K. Venugopal

Krishnadas Rajagopal

In a conversation with *The Hindu*, former Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal discusses the "command from political masters" that triggered the anti-Sikh riots in the 1980s, his sense of betrayal when he realised that the then Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh had told him an "utter lie" that the Babri Masjid would not be demolished in the 1990s, and the government's duty today to ensure that there is no discrimination or persecution of any religion or caste. Edited excerpts:

When did you decide to name your book *The Accidental Lawyer*?

The question of my entering the legal profession by accident took place when I originally abandoned B.Sc. Physics and decided that I will start entering the legal profession. That is how I called myself an accidental lawyer from the very beginning.

As a lawyer, you have represented several Chief Ministers, States, and top politicians. Is it more demanding to appear for them?

For me, it made no difference whether a person was a Chief Minister or any other client. They had to come to me. I would never go and see a Chief Minister.

There is a heart-rending chapter in your book about the horrors of the Delhi riots, which you also witnessed. What was the trigger for these riots?

So far as these Sikh riots were concerned, that was a command from the political masters.

You have said objectivity is a plus for lawyers. We now see lawyers coming to court with cases with communal overtones. Has objectivity reduced in recent years?

R.V. MOORTHY

It depends on the government.

It is the duty of the government to ensure that in a secular state like India, there is no difference between one religious community and another, or between one caste and another.

They have to ensure that there is no discrimination or persecution. And if that is not done, we cannot hold our heads high.

In the chapter 'Reaping the Whirlwind' on the Babri Masjid demolition, you write of telling Justice Venkatachaliah and other judges, 'I hang my head in shame. As swiftly as this demolition has taken place, let the Union of India, the Central government, put the bricks back so that the next day the Masjid would stand whole and untouched.' You were Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh's lawyer in the Supreme Court.

I thought they were the right words to say. Why? Because Kalyan Singh had said that he would see to it that no demolition would take place. That there was a bridge, and the police would stop them at this bridge if they tried to enter. But no efforts were made to stop [the *kar sevaks*] from entering. They came and they demolished... I thought if the bricks were put back the very same night, there would be no hue and cry. But the Attorney General [Milon K. Banerjee] said I was trying to do something 'very, very funny'.

I suppose the real reason was Congress thought they would lose a vote bank if the bricks were put back... Kalyan Singh told an utter lie.

Did you feel a sense of betrayal? That Kalyan Singh knew more than what he told you and made you assure the court that this would not happen?

Not only that, he filed an affidavit which I handed over [to the court]. Milon [Banerjee, the Attorney-General] handed over an intelligence report, which said that the *kar sevaks* had been trained over a long period of time. They were ready to come and demolish.

The demolition will take place. But Justice Venkatachaliah had to accept Kalyan Singh's word that it would not be done. And this is the result. Kalyan Singh was prepared to mislead the court and me.

The Supreme Court has said in recent judgments that we should move towards a casteless society. Do you agree?

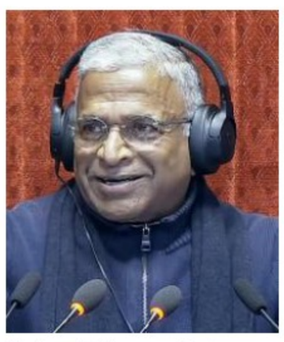
I agree fully. What is wrong with this country is caste. Everything... But then you can take it from me. I cannot foresee a period when caste will disappear.

Harivansh's term ending, no clarity on a successor

As the senior JD(U) leader, retiring on April 9, has not been renominated by his party, speculation has begun on who will succeed him, and whether the government will be filling the position at all

NEWS ANALYSIS

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI


Harivansh Narayan Singh

With the term of the Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman and Janata Dal (United) [JD(U)] senior leader Harivansh coming to an end on April 9, speculation has begun on who will replace him.

Three scenarios are being discussed. One, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) may keep the seat for itself. Two, the seat may again go to the JD(U), or to the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) or All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK). The AIADMK's floor leader M. Thambidurai was the previosu Deputy Speaker in the Lok Sabha. Three, much as in the Lok Sabha, the government may choose not to hold an election for the Deputy Chairman's post, allowing a Panel of Chairpersons to assist Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan. Since June 2019, the post of Deputy Speaker has remained vacant in the Lok Sabha.

The TDP has only two members in the Upper House. The party was not keen on the Deputy Speaker's post in the Lok Sabha when offered it in the 17th Lok Sabha, and there has been no significant change in its stance.

The JD(U) has four members in the Upper House and could easily make the cut, though it is not yet clear whether the government would want to continue with the arrangement. Though Mr. Thambidurai has a slim chance, considering that Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan is also from Tamil Nadu, the top two positions of the Upper House cannot be filled by persons belonging to the same State.

Many agree that the third scenario – of the government choosing not to hold an election for the Deputy Chairman's post – is far more likely. While the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is comfortably placed in the Upper House, with its total strength exceeding 120 members, an election could lead to what one member described as "sabre-rattling" with the Opposition.

BJP earned ₹6,769.14 cr. in 2024-25, Cong. ₹918.28 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP declared an income of ₹6,769.14 crore in the financial year 2024-25, the highest among national parties, while the Congress took the second spot with an income of ₹918.28 crore, according to a report by the Association of Democratic Reforms.

The report analysed the declarations made by the six national parties – BJP, Congress, CPI(M), AAP, BSP, and NPEP – in their annual audit reports submitted to the Election Commission. The six parties together declared an income of ₹7,960.09 crore in 2024-25, collected from all over India.

The BJP alone garnered 85.03% of the total income. It spent 55.76% of its income (₹3,774.58 crore) while the Congress spent around ₹1,111.94 crore.

Between 2023-24 and 2024-25, the BJP's earnings rose by 55.95% (₹2,428.67 crore), while the Congress saw its income decline by 25.05% (₹306.83 crore).

Amit Shah launches digital tools and the mascots Pragati and Vikas for Census 2027, in New Delhi. @PIB_INDIA

Mascots Pragati, Vikas to serve as the friendly faces of Census 2027

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday unveiled two mascots, Pragati and Vikas, for the upcoming Population Census 2027. Mr. Shah also soft-launched four digital tools to be used during the exercise. This will be the first Census that will be digital, and the first to allow self-enumeration and enumeration of caste.

The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) developed the advanced digital platforms to facilitate enumeration operations across the country. Census 2027 is to be conducted in two phases – Houselisting Operations (HLO), and Population Enumeration.

The mascots Pragati (female enumerator) and Vikas (male enumerator) have been unveiled to serve as friendly faces of the Census 2027, a statement by the Ministry of Home Affairs said.

The four digital platforms soft launched by Mr. Shah are – Houselisting Block Creator (HLBC) web application, HLO mobile app, Self-Enumeration (SE) portal, and Census Management and Monitoring System (CMMS) portal.

Congress releases list of Rajya Sabha candidates

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) on Thursday released the list of party candidates approved for the upcoming 2026 biennial elections to the Rajya Sabha.

According to a statement by the party, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has approved the candidature of Phulo Devi Netam (Chhattisgarh), Karamvir Singh Boudh (Haryana), Anurag Sharma (Himachal Pradesh), M. Christopher Tilak (Tamil Nadu), and Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Vem Narender Reddy (Telangana) to contest the elections.

Mr. Singhvi has been renominated as the party's Rajya Sabha candidate from Telangana, along with Narender Reddy.

Polling for the upcoming biennial elections to the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) to fill 37 seats across 10 States is scheduled for March 16, with the counting of votes at 5 p.m. on the same day.

With exit of 'forever CM' Nitish Kumar, an era ends in Bihar

NEWS ANALYSIS

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

JD(U) supremo Nitish Kumar is Bihar's longest-serving Chief Minister. FILE PHOTO

A comment circulating online encapsulates the political developments in Bihar perfectly – "It took a global war for a regime change in Iran to effect one in Bihar."

Nitish Kumar, the State's longest-serving Chief Minister, is going to the Rajya Sabha, vacating the post for National Democratic Alliance ally Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which finally gets to hold the top spot.

The ties between the Janata Dal(U) and the BJP through the years – from the time when the JD(U) was Samata Party to now – has been full of twists and turns, with one constant factor: Nitish Kumar as the chief ministerial face.

This constant nature of the alliance's face, since 2000 – when the Samata Party got fewer seats than the BJP, but saw Mr. Kumar being projected as Chief Minister for a brief period of seven days in a short-lived claim – to 2025, when, again, the BJP won more seats than the JD(U), was a product of not only the political field of Bihar but also the image and persona of Mr. Kumar.

He managed to carve out a strong base from the larger Mandal umbrella of Extremely Backward Classes, Mahadalits, some sections of the Pasmanda or backward Muslims, and women voters. It was a reinterpretation of social justice politics and the capture of regional sub-nationalism of Bihari pride, of a renewal of the State after the "jungle raj" of the RJD years, that made him valuable to the BJP as well.

The advent of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, hailing as he does from a backward community, may have modified some of that image for the BJP in Bihar, but as the party discovered in 2015, the caste arithmetic did not add up for it in the absence of Mr. Kumar.

That is perhaps why, in every Assembly poll since, even if the JD(U) won fewer seats than the BJP, Mr. Kumar would be the chief ministerial face. Even in 2025, with reports of Mr. Kumar's ill health doing the rounds, the BJP had insisted that he would be the Chief Minister.

It was a different matter after the results were out. BJP's senior leaders sent firm messages that a succession plan in the JD(U) was needed to be put in place. There are apprehensions that a Nitish-less JD (U) in Bihar would be like a junior partner of the BJP.

But what the shift demonstrates more starkly is the end of an era in Bihar politics. The generation that participated in the anti-Emergency movement and ushered in the heyday of socialist politics is making its final bows on the stage.

APPEAL

Mr.Vishnu.P, Christian Medical College, Hospital No.AK74196, 14 years son of Mr.Parthiban has been Diagnosed to have DORV, Subaortic Ventricular Septal Defect, Severe Infundibular, Pulmonary Valvular and Supravalvular Stenosis. He has been advised to undergo Intra Cardiac repair at the earliest. The cost of the operation & Medicines would be around Rs.5,30,000/-.

Please send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O Fav. **Save Poor Lives** A/c Vishnu.P, **Our A/c Details:** S/B A/c No. 20000913487. S.B.I. R.A.Puram, IFSC CODE:SBIN0001855. Please Donate by G-pay No.9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@oksbi. Donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

SAVE POOR LIVES, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Door No.14/76, Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai-600028. Ph. No. 044 42044165 / 9884607377. Email: savepoorlives@gmail.com. Our website: www.savepoorlives.com

India condoles Khamenei death as Misri visits Embassy of Iran

The Supreme Leader was killed in U.S.-Israel strikes; Jaishankar dials Iranian counterpart Araghchi; Iranian interlocutor says Tehran is facing an 'existential war' and that access to the Strait of Hormuz for energy buyers remains uncertain

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India on Thursday condoled the death of Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was assassinated in the opening salvo of the U.S.-Israel war on Iran on February 28.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri signed the book of condolence that was opened at the Embassy of Iran here, as External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held a round of telephone conversation with his Iranian counterpart, Seyed Abbas Araghchi.

The outreach from India coincided with remarks from a senior Iranian interlocutor who announced here that Iran is facing an "existential war" and that access to the Strait of Hormuz for energy buyers remains uncertain in the current circumstances.

"Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri visited the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and signed the condolence book, on behalf of the people and the Government of India, on the demise of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Syed Ali Khamenei," said External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

India had so far remained silent following the assassination of Khamenei.

Offering commiserations: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, on behalf of the Government of India, signed the condolence book at the Embassy of Iran in New Delhi on Thursday. ANI

The conversations between Indian and Iranian officials coincided with senior Iranian officials expressing disappointment over India's unwillingness to condemn the assassination of Khamenei as officials in the External Affairs Ministry expressed disappointment over Iran targeting oil tankers, which left at least three Indian sailors dead. The overall state of current India-Iran relations came up during the Jaishankar-Araghchi telephone conversation, with sources indicating that India is urging for an "early cessation of hostilities" and conveying to all sides that safety of Indian citizens in the West Asian states and on oil tankers near the Strait of Hormuz is of utmost interest.

Iranian strikes

A senior Iranian diplomatic source, however, argued that Tehran's retaliation to the U.S.-Israeli attacks was "precise and deliberate" and was aimed at the military and intelligence assets of its adversaries. The blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, the source said, was part of Iran's strategy to deal with the "existential threat" posed by the U.S.-Israel coalition. He said that Iran's relation with India had been "consistent" and that Iran expected that "third party" like Israel or the U.S. would never be able to influence that relation. He expressed disappointment that third parties are at present a reality in India-Iran relations.

"All our actions are based on what we had told our neighbours before the beginning of the war. We had told them that this is what we would have to do if your airbases and assets are used to attack us," said the official pointing to the attacks on U.S. military bases in the West Asian states and the choking of the Strait of Hormuz. "We stop attacks as soon as they stop. We were pragmatic and that is why we went for negotiation with the U.S. but now that they started the war we are left with no other strategy apart from resisting. We have to resist and that is our only strategy," said the senior Iranian official.

Explaining Iran's position on the situation at the Strait of Hormuz, he pointed to the insurance companies that are backing out of extending insurance to cargo vessels and said, "It is not just Iran's Army that has closed the Strait of Hormuz." He said there was a moral and ethical requirement on every stakeholder to condemn the killing of Khamenei, saying, "We call upon everyone, including India, to condemn the killing of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. That they can decapitate or assassinate the head of another state at will is a breach of law and this breach of law is going to haunt everyone."

Trying to balance the interest of the West Asian states that host more than a crore Indian expatriate workers and Iran, which controls the Strait of Hormuz, India has maintained a cautious approach in the conflict. Against this backdrop, India has reached out to multiple suppliers to ensure that the energy shockwave of the conflict is absorbed without disrupting the Indian economy.

Conflicts can't be resolved solely by military action: PM on West Asia, Ukraine

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India and Finland will support all efforts to end the conflicts in West Asia and Ukraine at the earliest, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi after talks with Finland's President Alexander Stubb, stressing that there are no military solutions to any conflict.

The two leaders met on Thursday and announced a "Strategic partnership in digitalization and sustainability", an MoU on mobility for Indian professionals particularly for jobs in innovation and technology, and a partnership on 6G telecommunications.

The visit by Mr. Stubb, who was here as chief guest for the Raisina Dialogue organised by the External Affairs Ministry, came weeks after the finalisation of the EU-India Free Trade Agreement, and both sides committed to doubling current bilateral trade levels of $1.5 billion-$2 billion as a result of the FTA.

"India and Finland both believe in the rule of law, dialogue, and diplomacy," said Mr. Modi during a ceremony to exchange agreements. "We are in agreement that no issue can be resolved solely through military conflict. Whether in Ukraine or in West Asia, we will continue to support every effort aimed at the early end of conflict and the restoration of peace," he added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the President of Finland, Alexander Stubb, in New Delhi on Thursday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Ministry Secretary (West) Sibi George confirmed that the two leaders had discussed developments in West Asia. While the joint statement referred to the need to establish a "comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in Ukraine through dialogue and diplomacy, based on the principles of the UN Charter and international law, including independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity", it did not refer to the situation in the Gulf, Iran or Israel.

Delivering the inaugural keynote address at the Raisina Dialogue, Mr. Stubb said that international politics was unpredictable, where "might is right" and violence have once again become a "foreign policy tool" of choice, criticising Russia for the invasion of Ukraine. Without naming the U.S. and Iran, he said there was a "rapid escalation" between countries who were "pushing for diplomatic solutions".

Mr. Stubb said that since 1947, India has based foreign policy on a "pragmatic and realistic worldview".

"You've [India has] shown the rest of the world what strategic caution and safeguarding autonomy means, all the while championing multilateralism and global cooperation... it is time that we all became a little bit more India," he said, adding that non-alignment and multi-alignment had made India more independent from "one partner or bloc". The two sides exchanged agreements on cooperation in renewable energies, including bioenergy, green hydrogen, as well as wind, solar and small hydro power.

Cong. slams PM's 'silence' on sinking of Iranian warship

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a scathing attack on the Narendra Modi government for its "silence" over the sinking of the Iranian warship by a U.S. submarine, the Congress on Thursday said that "no Indian government has been so timid or fearful".

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge accused the Union government of "destroying" India's foreign policy which had been carefully and painstakingly built and followed by successive governments over the years. "Modi Govt.'s reckless abdication of India's strategic & national interests is there for all to see," Mr. Kharge said in an X post.

The Congress chief said the Iranian vessel was unarmed and a guest of India that was returning home after participating in the recent multilateral naval exercise – MILAN – held in Visakhapatnam from February 19 to 25, when it was torpedoed. "No statement of concern or condolence. PM Modi remains mute," he said. Questioning the government's claim that India is a "net security provider" in the Indian Ocean Region, Mr. Kharge asked the Centre how could it lecture on the matter when it had not responded to developments occurring "in its own backyard". He raised concerns over the safety of Indian seafarers and commercial vessels in the region.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi criticised the Prime Minister for not responding to the situation. In an X post, he said the world had entered a "volatile phase", and warned that India's energy security could be at risk.

Navy began search, rescue operations after receiving Iranian ship's distress call

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy launched search-and-rescue operations after a distress call from the Iranian vessel *IRIS Dena* was received by the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), Colombo early on Wednesday.

The Indian Navy said the ship was operating about 20 nautical miles west of Galle in the SAR region under Sri Lankan responsibility.

The Sri Lankan Navy initially reported the distress situation, it said. In response, the Indian Navy promptly deployed a long-range maritime patrol aircraft around 10 a.m. on Wednesday to support the search operations being led by the Sri Lankan authorities. Another aircraft equipped with air-droppable life rafts was kept on standby for immediate deployment.

Helping hand: The Navy's sail training vessel *INS Tarangini*, which was operating nearby, was diverted for the rescue efforts. V. RAJU

The Indian Navy's sail training vessel, *INS Tarangini*, which was operating nearby, was diverted to assist the rescue efforts and reached the designated search area by 4 p.m. the same day. By then, the Sri Lankan Navy and other agencies had already begun rescue operations.

INS Ikshak has sailed from Kochi to further augment the search mission and remains deployed in the area to look for missing personnel as part of humanitarian assistance to shipwrecked crew members. Coordination between the Indian and Sri Lankan authorities continues as search efforts remain under way, it said.

Conflict grounds IndiGo aircraft loaned from a Norwegian carrier

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

IndiGo's entire fleet of widebody aircraft, comprising six Boeing 787s that flew to several international destinations, including London, Manchester and Amsterdam, has been grounded from the start of the Iran-Israel war last Saturday, as the aircraft the Indian airline has loaned from the Norwegian carrier Norse cannot fly over West Asian countries due to a European advisory, sources said.

While Indian carriers, including Air India, Air India Express, and SpiceJet, continue to fly to Oman and carry out restricted flying to parts of the UAE, including Dubai, Ras Al Khaimah and Al Fujairah, and retain access to Saudi airspace, a European aviation advisory has imposed a blanket ban on its airlines against overflying as many as 11 countries in the region, which by extension means IndiGo cannot use Norse's aircraft while transiting through the banned air corridor.

IndiGo cannot use aircraft from the Norwegian carrier on routes that require transit through West Asia. FILE PHOTO

The disruption is compounded by Pakistan's continued closure of its airspace to aircraft operated by Indian airlines, leaving IndiGo with no viable route as it is restricted from flying over not one but two of the key airspace corridors connecting Europe and the U.S. to Asia.

The last IndiGo flight to a European destination flew from Mumbai to Amsterdam on February 28, before the European advisory came into effect – it departed at 5 a.m. local time, and landed at 11.30 a.m. local time, according to flight-tracking website Flightradar24.

IndiGo operates flights to London and Manchester from Delhi and Mumbai, and a Mumbai- Amsterdam service with varied weekly frequencies.

It recently terminated its flights to Copenhagen citing geopolitical circumstances as well as the need for building reliable operations.

Five hours later on the same day, a Delhi-London flight had to take a U-turn mid-flight over Oman and return to Delhi as Iran and Israel were launching air strikes against each other.

Under an advisory issued on February 28, the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) has stated European airlines cannot fly over West Asia.

IndiGo did not reply to a query emailed to it on the matter till the time of going to press. They were engaging with Norse to restore flights at the earliest, an official of the airline said.

Sinking of ship brings war to region: Sri Lanka, Maldives leaders

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The sinking of an Iranian ship by the U.S. in the Indian Ocean raises concern for the smaller countries in the region, leaders from Sri Lanka and the Maldives, who have gathered for the Raisina Dialogue, said on Thursday. They called for closer communication on the issue with India as a "net security provider" in the region.

Indian diplomats also described the torpedo attack in the Indian Ocean, close to Sri Lanka, as concerning, especially given that the warship, the *IRIS Dena*, was returning on Wednesday from multilateral exercises held with the Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam last month. The External Affairs Ministry did not respond to a question on whether India had raised the issue with the U.S.

"We don't want the war spilling over into our waters. I think it's worrying that this war is coming home for us. India is the net security provider in the region and we are confident that India will rise to the occasion," former Maldives President Mohamed Nasheed said.

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu has spoken to several leaders in West Asia, including his counterpart in the UAE, Mohammed Bin Zayed. He has criticised the U.S. and Israel for the war in the region, but has not commented on the incident in the Indian Ocean.

> I think it's worrying that this war is coming home for us... we are confident that India will rise to the occasion
>
> **MOHAMED NASHEED**
> Former Maldives President

Sri Lankan Navy personnel rescued about 30 Iranian sailors after responding to a distress call, with estimates of more than 80 killed in the explosion.

"For smaller countries, particularly Sri Lanka that is coming out of an [economic] crisis, we haven't still been able to build enough buffers to withstand an external shock if it prolongs for more than a couple of weeks," Sri Lankan Opposition UNP MP Harsha Da Silva told *The Hindu*. "Obviously therefore we depend on India to work in partnership, particularly when it comes to maritime affairs," he added, pointing out that Sri Lanka was the "centre of the Indian Ocean", where India helms a number of multilateral organisations.

Indian leadership

In the past few years, India has upgraded its SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) policy to MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions). It also hosts the annual Indian Ocean Conference, houses the Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), convenes the Colombo Security Initiative (which includes Sri Lanka, the Seychelles, the Maldives, Mauritius, and Bangladesh), and takes a leading role in organisations such as the Indian Ocean Rim Association. Last month, it hosted the Navies of 75 countries, including Iran, at three major events in Visakhapatnam – the International Fleet Review 2026, Exercise MILAN 2026, and Indian Ocean Naval Symposium Conclave of Chiefs.

Former Foreign Secretary Kanwal Sibal said the Iranian ship would not have been in the Indian Ocean at this time if it had not been invited by India. "The attack by the U.S. submarine was premeditated as the U.S. was aware of the Iranian ship's presence in the exercise to which the U.S. Navy was invited but withdrew from participation at the last minute, presumably with this operation in mind. The U.S. has ignored India's sensitivities as the ship was in these waters because of India's invitation," he said on X, adding that India had a "moral and human responsibility" to condole the loss of lives of its guests.

The conflict overshadowed the opening day of the Raisina Dialogue, with about 1,100 of the 1,800 international delegates cancelling their plans to attend due to airspace restrictions and flight cancellations.

Modi speaks to Macron on conflict in West Asia

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday spoke to French President Emmanuel Macron and discussed shared concerns over the evolving situation in West Asia, and the need for a return to dialogue and diplomacy.

"We will continue to engage closely and coordinate efforts towards the early restoration of peace and stability in the region," the Prime Minister said in a post on X after his telephonic conversation with Mr. Macron.

INBRIEF

SU-30 jet missing after losing radar contact in Assam

A Sukhoi 30 MKI fighter jet of the Indian Air Force (IAF) was reported missing from radar contact after taking off from eastern Assam's Jorhat on Thursday. "An IAF Su-30 MKI is reported overdue. The aircraft had taken off from Jorhat, Assam and was last in contact at 7.42 p.m. Further details are being ascertained. Search and rescue mission has been initiated," the IAF post on social media platform X said. There is no news of the pilot yet, Defence officials said.

Maoist killed during gunfight in Dantewada, say police

A Maoist carrying a reward of ₹5 lakh on his head was gunned down by security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district late Wednesday evening, the police said. Dantewada Superintendent of Police Gaurav Rai said the Maoist was identified as Rajesh Punem, a resident of Burji village under the Gangaloor police station limits in Bijapur district. A gunfight took place on Wednesday night in the forested hills when a joint team of the District Reserve Guard and Bastar Fighters, both units of the State police, was out on an anti-Naxal operation. The operation was launched after the police received inputs that Maoists were dumping weapons and other materials in the forested hill region. Weapons including a self-loading rifle, a pistol with a magazine and live cartridges, empty shells and a walkie-talkie set were recovered, said Mr Rai.

Indian HPV vaccine under test for single-dose roll-out

An ICMR study of whether a single dose of Indian-made Cervavac vaccine generates a stable immune response compared with Gardasil will determine if it can be officially recommended

Jacob Koshy
Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

A relaxation by the World Health Organization (WHO) in the prescribed dosage for the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine and 'free' doses may have pushed back the inclusion of an Indian-made vaccine into the national programme to inoculate children against HPV.

This is despite the Health Ministry in 2023 committing to preparing the Indian-made vaccine for inclusion in the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP), publicly available documents suggest.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on February 28, launched a campaign in Ajmer, Rajasthan, to vaccinate 1.15-crore 14-year-old girls with Gardasil-4, developed by Merck and available in India since 2009. It is one of the most well-tested HPV vaccines and part of the immunisation programmes in several countries.

The inclusion of Gardasil-4, however, pushed back Cervavac, an indigenously developed quadrivalent HPV vaccine. Following Phase ⅔ trials of the vaccine that showed it was "non inferior" to Gardasil, it was officially launched in September 2022 when Science Minister Jitendra Singh lauded it as an example of the private sector and the government coming together to create an affordable product.

India has launched a campaign to vaccinate 1.15-crore 14-year-old girls with the Gardasil-4 HPV vaccine. PTI

Reports in January 2023 said that the Health Ministry was planning to float a global tender for 16.02 crore doses of HPV vaccine in April towards the immunisation programme rollout in 2026. The minutes of a meeting of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) – India's apex advisory body on vaccination – in July 2023 note that "...indigenously developed qHPV vaccine (Cervavac) may be considered for introduction in the UIP as a two-dose regimen".

In the same meeting, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) had also stated, "...The introduction of the vaccine has been approved, and MoHFW is currently working on its implementation in the UIP." However no such tender came.

The absence of Cervavac from India's current UIP is due to an ongoing study led by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), which is testing whether a single dose of Cervavac generates enough protective antibodies and generates a stable immune response compared with a single dose of Gardasil vaccine. The results of this study are only expected in 2027, N.K. Arora, a member of the NTAGI told *The Hindu*.

Until early 2022, the WHO recommended a two-dose schedule for administering HPV vaccines for girls in the 9-15 age group for maximum generation of antibodies.

However faced with "...stagnating pace of introductions, the low HPV vaccine coverage in many countries and the gap with the 2030 target of 90% coverage ..." a Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) of Immunisation of the WHO, recommended in March 2022 that national immunisation programmes could use either a two-dose or a single-dose vaccination schedule.

Medical colleges asked to link patients' digital health records

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The National Health Authority has simplified the ABHA-ID registration process for patients

In a big push for the nationwide linking of digital health records, the National Medical Commission (NMC) has directed all medical colleges to generate and link the Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA)-IDs of all patients availing outpatient, inpatient, and emergency services at the hospitals attached to these colleges.

The aim is to weed out the fake patients that some institutions deploy during the NMC's annual assessment and registration renewal process for all medical colleges, and to make the process more objective and transparent.

In its communication to medical colleges, the commission said that the "generation and linkaging of ABHA-ID of patients visiting OPD/IPD/Emergency services in hospitals attached to Medical Colleges is an important prerequisite for objective verification of the clinical workload."

It added that the National Health Authority, which is the nodal agency for the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), has simplified the ABHA-ID registration process to make it hassle-free for patients.

The ABHA-ID is a unique, 14-digit identification number assigned to Indian patients to create a secure, paperless digital health record ecosystem. It facilitates the linking of medical records.

The NMC has also asked all medical colleges to submit details of their hospitals' Health Facility Registry (HFR)-IDs within seven days. Colleges have been asked to state whether their hospital software systems are integrated with the ABDM platform and the National Health Authority's PM-JAY portal.

The HFR is a comprehensive, centralised digital repository of public and private healthcare facilities in India, including hospitals, clinics, labs, and pharmacies.

Part of the ABDM, it provides a unique digital identity to each facility, enhancing discovery, improving trust, and enabling integration into the national digital health ecosystem.

CBSE cancels Class 10 Board exams for Gulf countries

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Thursday announced that Class 10 Board examinations for students appearing in Gulf countries stood cancelled after a "critical review of the prevailing situation in parts of the Middle East". The Board added that the mode of declaration of results for these students would be announced separately.

In the same circular, the CBSE added that Class 12 Board exams, scheduled to be held on Saturday for students in these countries, had been postponed till further notice.

The CBSE reiterated that students should "remain in close contact" with their schools and only rely on official announcements.

Webinar on women in tech to share lessons on leadership, resilience, strategic thinking

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

VIT Vellore, in collaboration with *The Hindu Education Plus*, will organise a webinar, titled "From Campus To C-Suite: Women Engineers Leading India's Tech Boom", on March 8 as part of the Career Path Series, to mark International Women's Day.

The special session brings together accomplished professionals and alumni from top institutions to share their career journeys, industry perspectives, leadership experiences and practical guidance for aspiring engineers looking to make their mark in the technology ecosystem. As India strengthens its position as a global technology powerhouse, women engineers are increasingly stepping into influential roles across startups, multinational corporations, and innovation-driven enterprises. From academic excellence to executive leadership, their journeys reflect resilience, strategic thinking, and a commitment to transforming the tech landscape.

VIT Vellore Institute of Technology
Presents
THE HINDU EDUCATIONPLUS CAREER PATH SERIES
FROM CAMPUS TO C-SUITE:
WOMEN ENGINEERS LEADING INDIA'S TECH BOOM

The speakers will highlight the key skills required to excel in competitive tech environments, outline strategies for career progression, and emphasise the importance of mentorship and professional networking. Participants will gain insights into navigating career transitions, building domain expertise, and developing the capabilities necessary to progress from campus aspirations to corporate leadership roles.

Speakers include Kadambari S. Viswanathan, Assistant Vice-President, VIT, Vellore; Heetarthi Rashesh Kamdar, Chief Executive Officer, Adroit Alliance, Mumbai and a VIT alumnus; and Ami Sampat, Product Design Leader - Agentic Tooling and Quality, B2B SaaS Enterprise Experiences, also a VIT alumnus. The session will be moderated by journalist Soma Basu. To register, go to newsth.live/THVITWE

India, China top Asia-Pacific region in metabolic diseases burden: study

Ramya Kannan
NEW DELHI

India and China have among the highest absolute metabolic disease burdens in Asia-Pacific, a recent review of data from the Global Burden of Disease, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study (GBD), 1990-2023, revealed. It also includes forecasts up to 2030 for the Asia-Pacific region, based on these trends.

Published recently in the peer-reviewed journal *Metabolism*, the article by Huang Zhang, et al., presents an analysis of the GBD with specific reference to the Asia Pacific region. Scholars from research institutes across the world analysed estimates of disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) and mortality for five common metabolic diseases and risk factors in the region - Type 2 diabetes mellitus, high systolic blood pressure, high body mass index (BMI), high LDL cholesterol, and metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD). Metabolic diseases occur when the normal process of breaking down, storing or using energy from food is disrupted due to a range of factors.

In 2023, India recorded about 21 million disability-adjusted life years (DALYs).

In all the parameters considered, India and China top the list. Anoop Misra, one of the co-authors of the study and chairman, Fortis Centre for Diabetes, Obesity and Cholesterol, New Delhi, says India has one of the highest absolute metabolic disease burdens in Asia-Pacific.

"In 2023, India had approximately 21 million DALYs and 5.8 lakh deaths from type 2 diabetes. High systolic BP caused nearly 3.8 crore DALYs and about 15.7 lakh deaths. We also need to be aware that high BMI is also rising steadily, as are LDL cholesterol and MASLD," he explains.

In terms of DALYs, in 2023 India replaced China (from its top position in 1990) to lead the list of top 5 countries in the region. Under all the other four parameters, India continues to be in the second position after China, but the gap between the nations is steadily narrowing.

Prevention strategies

"This is why the time is opportune to launch urgent integrated prevention strategies," says Dr. Misra. In his opinion, the government should promote healthier diets by regulating ultra-processed foods, introducing clear front-of-pack nutrition labelling, and reducing excess sugar, salt, and unhealthy fats in commonly consumed foods. While this is done in some areas, more uniform implementation across the country is required.

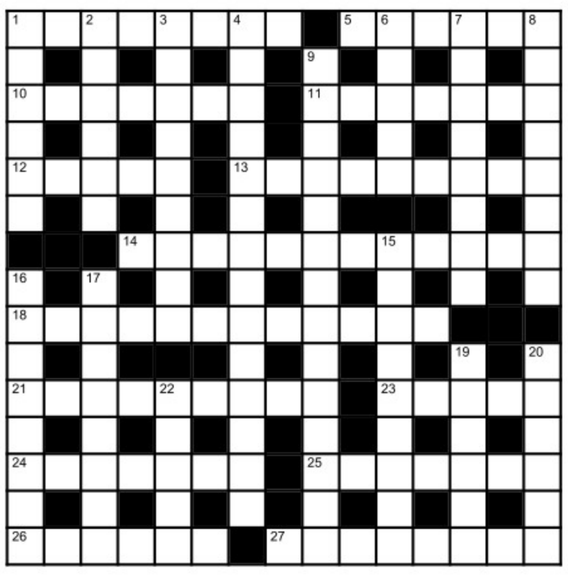
He further adds that cities and communities must be redesigned to encourage daily activity through safe walking spaces, cycling tracks, and school- and workplace-based exercise programs.

TH CROSSWORD + 14734

(set by Dr. X)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Truth about life-changing cosmetic procedure (8)
5 Father welcoming women with fruit (6)
10 Special venture to host grand parade (7)
11 See 18
12 Sexually explicit commercial with posh Latin model (5)
13 Infernal rogue's back - extremes of tension around neighbourhood (9)
14 Minister is upset about suspension (12)
18 / 11 Instruction by census taker to not take things lying down? Make one's views known! (5,2,3,2,7)
21 Sway and twirl, drinking Old Monk primarily at home (9)
23 Rested in academy during period of fasting (5)
24 Start to oppose extremely vile scheme for excessive utilisation (7)
25 Lacking energy entirely, moving in a sluggish manner (7)
26 Have a meal in a restaurant in English market around afternoon (3,3)
27 Worried about wild dingoes (8)

Down

1 Thief is calmly stealing money (6)
2 Hint about a queen's group of hired applauders (6)
3 Delhi gent exercised and became less heavy (9)
4 Emergency specialist is strong in spirit, beginning to swiftly examine (5,9)
6 Relaxed at centre after a massage in island country (5)
7 Way jerk dominates wife - ultimately deplorable (8)
8 Expanding section outside island retreat (8)
9 Boy having anxiety with master, say, backing group spreading ominous rumours (14)
15 Junior British officer in passenger vehicle, back on shift by noon (9)
16 Was once cruelly ousted by Baron and Earl (4,2,2)
17 Most crazy star tackles member insolently at premiere (8)
19 Go to drink up Italian liqueur (6)
20 Remained rock-steady (6)
22 Article about uranium and ruthenium in island nation (5)

SUDOKU

				1	4		6	
4				7	2	1		
	1	5					9	4
3				5		9		
		6				5		
		9		6				8
8	3					7	1	
		4	1	2				3
	5		8	3				

No.SS6811 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

C	O	M	E	D	I	A	N	■
O	■	O	■	O	■	M	■	S
B	A	R	B	U	D	A	■	T
B	■	T	■	B	■	T	■	O
E	M	A	I	L	■	E	N	R
R	■	L	■	E	■	U	■	M
■	■	■	S	T	A	R	T	I
G	■	O	■	O	■	I	■	N
R	U	B	O	N	E	S	H	A
U	■	S	■	■	■	H	■	T
D	E	C	A	D	E	N	C	E
G	■	E	■	R	■	E	■	A
I	G	N	E	O	U	S	■	C
N	■	E	■	N	■	S	■	U
G	A	R	N	E	T	■	E	P

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	7	4	9	1	8	2	6	3
1	8	6	4	2	3	7	9	5
9	3	2	7	5	6	4	8	1
8	9	3	5	7	4	1	2	6
2	6	5	3	9	1	8	4	7
7	4	1	6	8	2	5	3	9
3	2	7	8	6	5	9	1	4
4	5	8	1	3	9	6	7	2
6	1	9	2	4	7	3	5	8

FAITH

Essential duties of all

In a discourse, Dr. Venkatesh outlined essential duties people must observe in their daily lives. He emphasised that one should always speak the truth; however, if speaking the truth causes pain or hurts another's feelings, it is better to remain silent. Speech should be sweet, gentle, truthful, and beneficial to others. At the same time, one should never resort to falsehood merely to please someone.

A person should not concern himself with the mistakes committed by others; instead, he should reflect upon his own shortcomings and strive to correct them.

A commonly raised question is why some people who commit sins appear to live happily and enjoy prosperity, while others who lead righteous lives seem to suffer. The answer often given is that sinners may appear to escape the consequences of their actions, but the effects of their misdeeds eventually extend to their progeny, who partake in the wealth accumulated through such unrighteous means.

One should never engage in arguments with certain people, namely one's Acharya or Guru, maternal uncle, those who have surrendered seeking protection, children, the elderly, and those who are suffering. Likewise, one should avoid arguing with one's father, mother, brothers, sisters, wife, and servants, as such conduct goes against propriety and compassion.

Men should engage in social service to the extent possible and actively support the cause of education. Though married life is difficult – often likened to a ship with a hole – one must, through sincere effort and perseverance, strive to steer it safely toward the shore of divine bliss.

INBRIEF

Upcoming MRF plant to have 60% women in workforce

The upcoming greenfield tyre manufacturing plant of MRF Ltd. at the SIPCOT industrial park in Sivaganga is expected to generate significant employment for women, with the company projecting that around 60% of the workforce would be women. The proposed project when implemented envisages an investment of ₹5,300 crore over a period of 12 years and is expected to generate direct employment for approximately 1,000 people.

BoB raises ₹10,000 crore via Green Infrastructure Bonds

Bank of Baroda has raised ₹10,000 crore through Series I Long-Term Green Infrastructure Bonds. The issue witnessed strong investor interest, receiving bids of ₹16,415 crore, over three times the base issue size of ₹5,000 crore with a Green shoe option of ₹5,000 crore, and was priced at 7.10% coupon, reflecting a "greenium" for the bank's ESG-led financing approach. With this, BoB said it had become first bank in India to issue a domestic Green Infrastructure Bond.

RBI ramps up support to shield bonds from oil shock

The Reserve Bank of India appears to be stepping up support for the government bond market amid surging oil prices, with data showing that an investor category that includes the central bank posted its largest single-session purchase in five years. The category, which comprises insurance companies, pension funds, corporates and the RBI, bought bonds worth ₹202.85 billion ($2.21 billion) on Wednesday, the highest for this segment since February 2021. REUTERS

Flight cancellations, shipping surcharge hit exporters hard

Suspension of flights from India to West Asia disrupts supply chain for vegetables, fruits, and seafood exported from South India

Dhinesh Kallungal
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Edged out: The perishable goods kept at the warehouse of the Kerala State industrial Enterprises Ltd. in Kozhikode. FILE PHOTO

The cancellation of scheduled flights from India to West Asia has put exporters in trouble, as it has disrupted the supply chain for vegetables, fruits, and seafood exported from South India, including Kerala, which has a strong market in West Asian cities as well as in Europe. The suspension of flight services has also led to the accumulation of perishable goods in the warehouses of exporters in Kerala, forcing many to sell export-quality produce in local markets at cheaper rates.

An Instagram reel showing export-quality vegetables and fruits being sold by local vendors in the Tirur market, after they could not be exported to overseas markets through Calicut International Airport, has gone viral in Kerala. Speaking to *The Hindu*, K. Suresh Kumar, chairman of the Air Cargo Agents Association of India (ACAAI), a body of air-freight forwarders with around 600 members in the State, said about 100-150 tonnes of vegetables, fruits, flowers, and seafood are exported daily to West Asian and European markets from the Thiruvananthapuram International Airport.

The total volume of perishable goods exported to overseas markets through the four international airports in Kerala is about 400-600 tonnes of cargo per day. Around 30-40% of the cargo is meant exclusively for the West Asian market, while the rest is routed to European destinations, including the U.K., France, and Italy, as well as to Canada and the U.S. Transit flights operated by Emirates and Qatar Airways are primarily used to ship consignments to Europe via Dubai and Doha.

On the other hand, exporters depend on flights operated by IndiGo, Air India Express, and Air Arabia to ship goods to the West Asian market.

The suspension of flights has led to a near-total halt in exports from Kerala and other cities in India, inflicting heavy losses on exporters and farmers from southern India, Mr. Suresh said.

The bulk of the vegetables routed through Kerala is sourced from neighbouring States like Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

Emergency surcharge

Adding to their woes, shipping carriers have imposed an emergency surcharge ranging between $2,000 and $4,000 on cargo transiting through the Strait of Hormuz, citing escalating security risks. This has pushed exporters further to the brink, said Munshid Ali, secretary of the Kerala Exporters' Forum.

In the case of air shipments, airlines such as Emirates are now charging ₹215 per kg of cargo, compared with around ₹60 per kg earlier, following the partial reopening of airspace, Mr. Suresh said.

'India in touch with U.S. authorities for DFC maritime cover'

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

India is in touch with U.S. authorities for securing maritime insurance cover from the International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), sources in the government informed on Thursday.

Further, to shield the country against any potential impact on fuel availability amid the ongoing conflict in West Asia, India was also in touch with Paris-headquartered International Energy Agency (IEA), global oil suppliers and ministers of oil-producing countries, among others, they said.

"We are also in touch with U.S. authorities for the insurance cover from the [International] Development Finance Corp. The proposal had come from the U.S. govt," they informed.

The sources also said that New Delhi was not expecting any disruption to its liquified petroleum gas (LPG) and liquified natural gas (LNG) supplies.

With regard to natural gas, they said India lost 60 million metric standard cubic metres per day (MMSCMD) of supply, of its overall consumption of 195 MMSCMD, because of the conflict extending to Qatar's energy infrastructure.

War can impact up to ₹5,000 cr. of pharma exports: Pharmexcil

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Pharmaceutical exports, particularly to GCC and WANA regions, are likely to be impacted significantly amid challenges triggered by the war in West Asia, the uncertainty over cargo movement being the foremost, the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India said on Thursday.

Given the importance of this market, disruption of March's exports could result in a potential loss of ₹2,500 to ₹5,000 crore for the Indian pharmaceutical industry, the exporters' body said.

Chairman Namit Joshi said doubling of freight charges for both imports and exports, accompanied by surcharges of $4,000-$8,000 per shipment, has put substantial pressure on the pharma companies.

Crude oil price fluctuations, rising logistics costs for active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and finished formulations and shipping delays are bound to affect inventory cycles, Mr. Joshi said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	80,016	1.14
US Dollar	91.64	0.44
Gold	1,65,200	-4.39
Brent oil	84.36	4.09

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2089.20	12.70
Adani Ports	1499.30	64.90
Apollo Hosp	7775.00	109.00
Asian Paints	2287.80	2.60
Axis Bank	1349.10	-2.20
Bajaj Auto	9804.50	152.00
Bajaj Finserv	1911.80	22.50
Bajaj Finance	962.40	17.30
Bharat Elec	460.00	13.15
Bharti Airtel	1907.00	1.10
Cipla	1326.40	13.20
Coal India	449.40	14.25
Dr Reddys Lab	1313.50	22.30
Eicher Motors	7755.00	128.50
Eternal Ltd.	240.14	-0.59
Grasim Ind	2724.10	40.90
HCL Tech	1354.10	-9.90
HDFC Bank	877.75	9.10
HDFC Life	684.30	-0.30
Hindalco	954.95	33.15
Hind Unilever	2255.00	-6.30
ICICI Bank	1357.60	-7.80
IntGlobeAvi	4512.80	119.90
Infosys	1305.80	-1.60
ITC	311.50	-0.45
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	243.10	1.80
JSW Steel	1248.10	35.10
Kotak Bank	407.30	3.95
L&T	4038.70	156.10
M&M	3348.00	83.70
Maruti Suzuki	14415.00	257.00
Max Healthcare	1058.20	4.50
NestleIndia	1250.90	5.60
NTPC	378.05	12.25
ONGC	276.35	-0.60
PowerGrid Corp	299.45	7.50
Reliance Ind	1389.40	44.40
SBI Life	1945.00	14.40
State Bank	1169.50	-5.00
Shriram Finance Ltd.	1039.50	29.50
Sun Pharma	1784.50	34.00
TataConsumerProduct	1119.10	8.50
Tata Steel	200.57	3.84
TCS	2578.80	-9.00
Tech Mahindra	1333.30	-17.90
Titan	4275.20	70.80
Tata Motors PV	355.15	3.95
Trent Ltd.	3790.90	34.10
UltraTech Cement	12288.00	181.00
Wipro	195.68	0.13

Adani Total Gas raises prices

India's Adani Total Gas (ATGL) has sharply raised prices for supplies to industrial clients citing lower availability of gas due to conflict in the Middle East, according to a customer notice seen by *Reuters*.

Ports see 60,000 tonne basmati rice stuck on war, exporters call for help

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As close to 3,000 containers containing 60,000 metric tonne of basmati rice remain stuck at various Indian ports, rice exporters demanded immediate government aid to face the "severe shipping and logistics disruption" due to the war in West Asia.

Maintaining India's rice trade with Africa and West Asia together accounted for about 50% of national rice exports, the exporters urged the Union government to issue an official advisory recognising the current logistics disruption as a "*force majeure* type" of exceptional circumstance.

Around 90% of total rice exports towards West Asia, worth about ₹25,000 crore a year, was basmati, exporters told *The Hindu* adding the situation had impacted business very badly.

There is a 40% rise in container freight rates, says Amil Goel.

In a letter to Chairman of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) Abhishek Dev, the Indian Rice Exporters Federation said the government must issue an official advisory or notification recognising the disruption as a *force majeure* type of exceptional circumstance.

'Ease issues'

"This will ease contractual performance issues and reduce undue pressure from buyers in the form of forced price reductions, penalties, or unilateral cancellations for circumstances beyond exporters' control. It will also support exporters' discussions with buyers, banks, insurers and logistics partners," the letter said.

Amit Goel, founder of KNAM Foods and an exporter of basmati rice, told *The Hindu* exports to West Asia were 30% less than the corresponding period last year. "Business should have picked up before the beginning of Ramzan month or within Ramzan. Ships are not sailing to eastern ports of Arabic countries. We believe this is a temporary situation and very soon rice trade will bounce back as it is a staple food," Mr. Goel said.

Vice-president of IREF Dev Garg said "The major issue is with respect to containers and other logistical costs. We are seeing a 20% rise in bulk rate and about 40% rise in container freight rates. This is a very significant cost and no exporter is able to bear such a huge rise in transportation," he told *The Hindu*.

Auto retail sees broad-based sales surge 26% in February

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The overall automobile retail sales in February surged 25.62% year-on-year (YoY) to 24,09,362 units, registering a record according to sales data released by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Association (FADA). The sales were led by almost all segments baring Construction Equipment (CE).

While two-wheeler retail sales at 17,00,505 units grew 25.02%, Passenger Vehicles (PV) retail sales at 3,94,768 units surged 26.12%. Commercial Vehicles (CV) retail sales were at 1,00,820 units, an increase of 28.89%.

Improved affordability, market confidence translated into broad-based retail growth.

Three-wheeler segment witnessed retail sales of 1,17,130 units, up 24.39% while tractor retail sales cimbed 36.35% to 89,418 units, as per FADA data.

The CE segment, however, contracted 1.22% to 6,721 units.

"The strong performance extended the momentum seen after GST 2.0, with improved affordability and market confidence translating into broad-based retail growth, FADA said in a statement.

PV inventory reduced to 27-29 days, moving closer to FADA- recommended 21-day benchmark.

Stable growth phase

According to FADA, the market appears to be moving from a sharp rebound phase to a more stable growth phase.

FADA president C. S. Vigneshwar said: "February has turned out to be a landmark month for the Indian auto retail sector.

MRPL refutes declaring any force-majeure on exports

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) has not declared any force majeure on exports of crude oil amidst the widening conflict in West Asia, the refiner informed bourses in a filing.

"We hereby clarify that MRPL has not declared any 'force majeure' and is unaware about the mentioned news item and its source," it stated.

As per reports, the ONGC-subsidiary had told clients it would suspend export of oil products amid rising West Asia tensions.

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED Bharatpur
E-mail :- aceproj.bha.phed@rajasthan.gov.in, acepbpr@gmail.com
Notice Inviting Bid No. 04/2024-25 & 05/2024-25, Corrigendum No. 12
Due to unavoidable circumstances bid submission date of this office NIT No. 04/2024-25 & 05/2024-25 has extended and last date of submission has been made as date 16.04.2026. Other terms and conditions will remain as per Tender Documents.
NIT 04/2025-25 — UBN No: PHE2425WLOB07192, NIB Code: PHE2425A3390
NIT 05/2025-25 — UBN No: PHE2425WLOB07193, NIB Code: PHE2425A3391
(Surendra Sharma) Addl. Chief Engineer (P) PHED Bharatpur, Rajasthan
DIPR/C/3336/2026

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (PROJECT) PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, BHARATPUR
Chambal Head Works Mallah Road, Bharatpur (321001)
E-mail:-aceproj.bha.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
Notice Inviting Bid No. 07, 08 & 09/2024-25 Corrigendum No. 09
Due to unavoidable circumstances bid submission date of this office NIT no. 07/2024-25, 08/2024-25 & 09/2024-25 has extended and last date of submission has been made as date **16.04.2026**. Other terms and conditions will remain as per Tender Document.
UBN No: NIT 07/2024-25: PHE2425WLOB07196 (NIB Code: PHE2425A3393); NIT 08/2024-25: PHE2425WLOB07199 (NIB Code: PHE2425A3394); NIT 09/2024-25: PHE2425WLOB07201 (NIB Code: PHE2425A3395)
(Surendra Sharma) Addl. Chief Engineer (P) PHED Bharatpur, Rajasthan
DIPR/C/3333/2026

Andhra Pradesh Airports Development Corporation Ltd
(Under the control of Infrastructure & Investment Dept.) Mangalagiri, Amaravati
Providing Taxi way to 2nd Flying Training Organisation (FTO) at Kurnool Airport in the state of Andhra Pradesh.
RFP Notice No.14/APADCL/Kurnool Airport/Taxi way to FTO/2025-26, dt.04.03.2026
Andhra Pradesh Airports Development Corporation Limited (APADCL) invites Proposals from reputed Global firms for the captioned assignment. Interested firms may download the Request for Proposal (RFP) document from the website of APADCL @ **https://www.apadcl.com/** on **06.03.2026** at **11.00 AM.** The last date for submission of the proposals is **on or before 12:00 P.M. hours IST on 23.03.2026** {in ap e- procurement portal only}
Sd/- Managing Director, APADCL
For any clarifications, please send e-mail to: md-apadcl@ap.gov.in, cgmtechapadcl@gmail.com.
DIPR 4885PP/CL, DT.05-03-2026

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (PROJECT) PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, BHARATPUR
Chambal Head Works Mallah Road, Bharatpur (321001)
E-mail:-aceproj.bha.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
Notice Inviting Bid No. 03/2024-25 Corrigendum No. 13
Due to unavoidable circumstances bid submission date of this office NIT no. 03/2024-25 (Kaliteer Water Supply Project) has extended and last date of submission has been made as date 16.04.2026. Other terms and conditions as per Tender Documents.
UBN No.: PHE2425WLOB07189
NIB Code: PHE2425A3388
(Surendra Sharma) Addl. Chief Engineer (P) PHED Bharatpur, Rajasthan
DIPR/C/3334/2026

ANDHRA PRADESH GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE CORPORATION LIMITED (AGICL)
Rayapudi, Thullur Mandal, Amaravati-522237 (A.P.)
E PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
NIT No. 01/MD/CE/CIVIL/AGICL/2026, Dated:02-03-2026
Name of Work: AGICL-Expression of Interest for consultancy services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) and Bid Documents (RFP and CA etc.) for Development of Ropeways from Vijayawada Bus Stand to Bhavani Island connecting Kanaka Durga Temple and Bhavani/Punnami Ghat in Vijayawada on 'Public Private Partnership' (PPP) basis - Reg. The bid can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from **04-03-2026 to 18-03-2026 up to 14.00 Hrs.** Due date for submission of Bid is **18-03-2026 up to 15.00 Hrs, Technical bid opening 18-03-2026 @16.00Hrs.For further details, Please refer to www.apeprocurement.gov.in, www.crda.ap.gov.in and www.agicl.org**
Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR, AGICL, AMARAVATI

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED Bharatpur
E-mail :- aceproj.bha.phed@rajasthan.gov.in, acepbpr@gmail.com
Notice Inviting Bid No. 06/2024-25, Corrigendum No. 13
Due to unavoidable circumstances bid submission date of this office NIT no. 06/2024-25 has extended and last date of submission has been made as date 16.04.2026. Other terms and conditions will remain as per Tender Documents.
UBN No: PHE2425WLOB07194
NIB Code: PHE2425A3392
(Surendra Sharma) Addl. Chief Engineer (P) PHED Bharatpur, Rajasthan
DIPR/C/3335/2026

Office of the Medical Superintendent
RUHS Hospital of Medical Sciences, Jaipur
Sector-11, Kumbha Marg, Pratap Nagar, Tonk Road, Jaipur -302033(Raj.)
दूरभाष: 0141-2795577, Email: supdt.hms@ruhsraj.org, ruhshmstore@ruhsraj.org
No. :- F. ( ) RUHS HMS/Store/2025-26/14744 Date :- 26/02/2026
संशोधन आदेश
राज.स्वा.वि.वि. आयुर्विज्ञान चिकित्सालय, जयपुर में Establishment and Development of State of Art Trauma Center (Level-1) on Turn Key Basis along with Medical Equipment at RUHS Hospital of Medical Sciences, Jaipur हेतु जारी ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या 12708 दिनांक 08.01.2026 (UBN : CMS2526GLOB00108) में प्री–बिड बैठक के पश्चात् संशोधित निविदा (स्कोप ऑफ वर्क) प्रपत्र जारी किया जाता है। उक्त संशोधन से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत विवरण Website **sppp.raj.nic.in,** or **eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर उपलब्ध है।
Medical Superintendent
Raj.Samwad/C/25/21697 RUHS Hospital of Medical Sciences, Jaipur

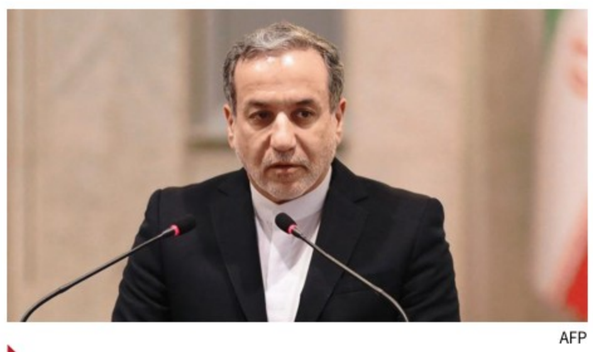
कार्यालय अतिरिक्त जिला परियोजना समन्वयक समग्र शिक्षा पाली
पता :- राजप्रावि आर्टर नगर पाली ईमेल आईडी adpcrmsapali@gmail.com
क्रमांक :- अजिपस/समसा/पाली/निविदा/2025-26/248 दिनांक :- 25/02/2026
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 16/2025-26
सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि स्थानीय जिले मे संचालित कस्तुरबा गांधी बालिका आवासीय विद्यालयों में मानव सेवा उपलब्ध करवाने हेतु रजिस्टर्ड फर्मों से मुहरबंद लिफाफो में ई निविदा आंमत्रित की जाती है। जिसकी अनुमानित लागत राशि 1,50,00,000 रू है। निविदा ऑनलाईन जमा करवाने की अंतिम तिथी दिनांक 17.03.2026 सांय 06 बजे एवं निविदा भौतिक रूप से स्थानीय कार्यालय में जमा करवाने की अन्तिम तिथि दिनांक 17.03.2026 को दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक है। निविदा उसी दिवस को दोपहर 03.00 बजे स्थानीय कार्यालय में खोली जायेगी। निविदा की समस्त शर्तें **sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** एवं स्थानीय कार्यालय में कार्यदिवस को देखी जा सकती है।
UBN No. : RSE2526SLRC07491
अतिरिक्त जिला परियोजना समन्वयक समग्र शिक्षा, पाली
राज.संवाद/सी/25/21705

NASHIK MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, NASHIK
E-Tender Cell Department
Notice No. 67 (Year 2025-26)
E-Tender Notice Regarding the **PWD Department 1 work** of Nashik Municipal Corporation Nashik. vide E-Tender Notice No.67 (Year 2025-26) invites bids for which will be displayed on the website www.mahatenders.gov.in. from Dt.04/03/2026 to Dt.02/04/2026 up to 17.30 pm Last date for acceptance of tender will be Dt.02/04/2026.
Note - All further necessary notices/clarifications will be published on the online website.
जनसंपर्क/जा.क्र/४७८/२०२६
दि.४/३/२०२६
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
E-Tender Cell
Nashik Municipal Corporation
गोदा प्रदूषण टाळा, भविष्य संभाळा.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, HUBBALLI
KMCRI/SUP(5)/Neuro Surgery/Tender-02/439/2025-26 Dated 03.03.2026
KMCRI/SUP(5)/Mannequin/Tender-02/527/2025-26 Dated 03.03.2026
ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)
ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಇವರು **ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರದಾರರು, ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರು, ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಏಜೆಂಟ್, ಮತ್ತು ಅಧಿಕೃತ ವಿತರಕರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.&ಆರ್.ಐ. ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ Neuro Surgery ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ Neuro Navigation ಮತ್ತು Skill Laboratory ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ Mannequin with Turnkey Project** ಮೂಲಕ **ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸುವುದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ** ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಖರೀದಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1999 ಶಾಸನ 2000 ಅನ್ವಯ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು, ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **htpps://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೇ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.
ಸಹಿ/– (ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು)
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

TEHRAN

Iran FM Araghchi says a ground invasion will be 'disaster' for foes



AFP

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Thursday his country was prepared for any potential ground invasion, saying such a move would spell "disaster" for the Islamic republic's foes. "We are waiting for them," Mr. Araghchi told U.S. broadcaster *NBC News*, as the United States and Israel kept up strikes on Iran. AFP

WASHINGTON

Trump demands role in choosing Iran's upcoming Supreme Leader

AP

U.S. President Donald Trump insisted he should have a role in picking Iran's next Supreme Leader after the killing of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, whose son he said he found unacceptable. "Khamenei's son is a lightweight. I have to be involved in the appointment, like with Delcy," Mr. Trump said, drawing a comparison to Venezuela. AFP

BRUSSELS

EU's Kallas warns anti-drone stock 'limited' as West Asia war rages

AP

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said on Thursday the bloc was looking to help Gulf nations fend off Iranian drone strikes, but warned supplies of relevant kit might be limited. Ms. Kallas warned production of drone interceptors would struggle to keep up with high demand both in Ukraine and now the West Asia. AFP

GARDEZ

Afghans rally in border provinces against Pakistan, civilian casualties

AFP

Hundreds of Afghans rallied in border provinces to decry Pakistan killing civilians and to show support for their troops battling at the frontier. At least 42 civilians have been killed and 104 wounded since February 26, the UN mission in Afghanistan reported. Islamabad is yet to comment on civilian casualties. AFP

Iran's political system: clerical rule with the ballot

The Constitution mandates the 88-member Assembly of Experts to elect the Supreme Leader; the Assembly, which also has the authority to oversee and dismiss the Leader, is directly elected, but the candidates are strictly vetted by the Guardian Council, whose members are directly or indirectly picked by the Supreme Leader; President and members of Parliament (Majles) are directly elected

NEWS ANALYSIS

Stanly Johny

Iran's unique political system – which has been designed in such a way that the Shia clergy has ultimate authority in all critical matters related to the state, even as elections are held in regular intervals – is a child of the 1979 revolution.

While it's popularly called the "Islamic revolution", the anti-*Shah* movement was not just Islamic. True, Ayatollah Ruholla Khomeini, who, while in exile in Iraq's Najaf, had called for the Shah's ouster, and became the embodiment of the mass agitations in the 1970s. But Iranians from different political sections, including nationalists, liberals, leftists and trade unionists, had actively joined the movement, seeking freedom from the Shah's dictatorship. When the Shah fled the country in January 1979, Khomeini was in Paris. He landed in Tehran's Mehrabad airport, which was controlled by the revolutionaries, on February 1, 1979. They turned a disused girls' school in central Tehran into a make-shift headquarters of the Revolutionary Council. And one of the first things Khomeini did was to form a paramilitary force – the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). But the Islamists could not ignore other sections of the revolution completely.

Hybrid system

So, Khomeini ushered in a new system that would have an elected President and Parliament, while the clerics would remain firmly in control. He promised an Islamic revolutionary government based on Sharia, a model which he called *Vilayat-e Faqih* (Guardianship of the *Faqih*, or the Islamic Jurist).

Iran's state has both elected and unelected branches and the unelected branch is more powerful than the former. The President, Parliament (Majles) and the Assembly of Experts are directly elected, while the Supreme Leader, the Guardian Council and the Expediency Council are appointed by the clergy. The President is the head of the government, which is in charge of running the day-to-day affairs of the country, but is not the head of the state. The Supreme Leader is the most powerful person in the country and is both the political leader and spiritual guide of the Islamic Republic.

The presidential term is four years and Presidents cannot have more than two consecutive terms. Candidates for elections are vetted by the Guardian Council. The 290-member

Overseeing authority: Unlike the President, the Supreme Leader does not have any fixed term. G. RAMAKRISHNA

Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majles) has the authority to legislate. But all the Bills the Majles passes should go to the unelected Guardian Council, which would vet whether the Bill is in compliance with the Islamic Constitution and values.

The Guardian Council has 12 members, a combination of six religious experts, who will directly be appointed by the Supreme Leader, and six Islamic legal jurists, nominated by the Chief Justice (who in turn is appointed by the Supreme Leader). So the Supreme Leader's office has direct or indirect control over the Guardian Council, which oversees the elections, vets the candidates and has a veto over Parliament.

Unlike the President, the Supreme Leader doesn't have any fixed term. Since the 1979 revolution, Iran has had only two Supreme Leaders – Khomeini (who died in 1989) and Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was assassinated by a joint American-Israeli strike on February 28, 2026. Iran, now at war with the U.S. and Israel, is currently in the process of choosing its third Supreme Leader.

The Constitution mandates the 88-member Assembly of Experts to elect the Supreme Leader. The Assembly, which also has the authority to oversee and dismiss the Supreme Leader, is directly elected, but the candidates are strictly vetted by the Guardian Council. If there are legal disputes between the elected Majles and the unelected Guardian Council, the 45-member Expediency Council, which advises the Supreme Leader, will have ultimate adjudicating powers. And all 45 members of the Council are appointed by the Supreme Leader, who is also the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. In essence, the Constitution ensures that the Leader and the clerical establishment stay firmly in charge of all branches of the state.

Two blocs

Iran's political class is broadly divided into two categories – principalists (better known as hardliners) and reformists. The principalists make up the conservative bloc that enjoys the support of the clergy, whereas reformists advocate political and social reforms from within. The election of Mohammad Khatami as President in 1997 was a critical moment for reformist politics. But Mr. Khatami, an influential and popular reformist, failed to usher in any major changes in the system. Hassan Rouhani, the former President, was also a reformist, while his successor, Ebrahim Raisi, was a principalist. The current President, Masoud Pezeshkian, belongs to the reformist camp.

When Khomeini established his clerical rule after the revolution, many expected the new order to collapse quickly. Instead, Khomeini purged internal dissent and consolidated the clergy's grip even when the country fought an eight-year war with Iraq. Over four decades later, the system the Ayatollah built faces its gravest challenges yet.

Iran was bombed by Israel and the U.S. in June 2025, while the alliance network it had built in West Asia has been weakened by Israeli attacks. In January 2026, Iran witnessed massive protests and riots amid deteriorating economic situation. And now, with Israel and the U.S. bombarding Iran and calling for regime change, the Islamic Republic is fighting a do-or-die battle on multiple fronts.

Voting concludes in Nepal with preliminary turnout around 60%

Sanjeev Satgainya
KATHMANDU

Nepal voted on Thursday in its first election since September last year's Gen Z protests, with preliminary estimates suggesting a turnout of 60%.

"Our preliminary assessment is that around 60% of votes were cast," said Acting Chief Election Commissioner Ram Prasad Bhandari during a press conference on Thursday evening, after polls closed at 5 p.m.

Polling began at 7 a.m. across all 77 districts to elect a 275-member House of Representatives – 165 under the first-past-the-post system and 110 under the proportional representation system. The Election Commission said voting concluded peacefully, except for some sporadic incidents in a few locations.

More than 18.9 million Nepalis were eligible to vote, with around 1 million added to the rolls since September's protests, which claimed 77 lives.

The protests, spurred by demands for jobs, clean governance, and accountability, led to the fall of K.P. Sharma Oli's government. An interim government was formed on September 12, led by former Chief Justice Sushila Karki, and Parliament was dissolved. Fresh elections were announced for March 5.

There had been doubts about whether the election would take place on schedule. Mr. Oli repeatedly criticised the Gen Z protests, calling them a "counter-revolution," and his party challenged the House dissolution in the Supreme Court. Government insiders said it took multiple rounds of talks to bring the parties, especially the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist), to the ballot.

Democratic process: Security personnel escort as electoral officials carry ballot boxes to the counting centre, after voting ends in Kathmandu on Thursday. AFP

As voting began, Ms. Karki thanked election officials, security personnel, and others for ensuring the election went ahead on time. "The beauty of democracy is people's participation. I would like to urge all voters to reach their polling booths and cast their ballots," she said.

People began gathering at polling booths early in the morning.

The Election Commission had set up 23,112 polling centres at 10,963 polling stations across 77 districts.

Potential PM candidate

Balendra Shah, senior leader of the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), is widely billed as the next Prime Minister if he defeats Mr. Oli in Jhapa-5, and if the party secures a majority or emerges as the single largest party.

After polls closed, Mr. Shah posted on Facebook, writing: "Because of you, democracy has won today."

Mr. Shah had endorsed Ms. Karki as Prime Minister of the interim government after Mr. Oli resigned, while youth debated leadership options online during the political vacuum.

Though Mr. Shah was not directly involved in the protests, he supported them and urged protesters to negotiate with the Nepal Army after the House was dissolved.

Thursday's election is expected to restore the constitutional process.

While the RSP experienced a groundswell in the lead-up to the election, with "change" as the rallying cry, analysts say a majority for any single party could be difficult. In that case, a hung Parliament – and coalition government – is the most probable outcome.

It could take days, if not weeks, for final results. The Election Commission said it will release first-past-the-post results within 24 hours of counting, while proportional representation results will take longer to tally nationwide vote shares.

The 60% turnout resembles previous elections. In the two general elections held after the promulgation of the Constitution - in 2017 and 2022 - turnout stood at 68.7% and 61.4%, respectively.

The 2013 Constituent Assembly elections recorded the highest turnout at 78.3%, while the 2008 election to choose the first Constituent Assembly saw a turnout of 61.7%.

'U.S. and West Asia nations seek Kyiv's drone expertise'

Associated Press
KYIV

The United States and its allies in the West Asia are seeking Ukraine's expertise in countering Iran's Shahed drones, according to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Various countries, including the United States, have approached Ukraine for help in defending against the Iranian drones, Mr. Zelenskyy said late Wednesday. He said he has spoken in recent days with the leaders of the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Jordan and Kuwait about possible cooperation.

Ukrainian assistance in countering Iranian drones will be provided only if it does not weaken Ukraine's own defences, and if it adds leverage to Kyiv's diplomatic efforts to stop the Russian invasion, the Ukrainian leader added.

BRAHMAPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Court Road, Courtpeta, Brahmapur, Ganjam, Odisha, Pin-760004
www.bdabrahmapur.in, email: bedaengineers@gmail.com; Phone No.0680 2292797

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT - Invitation for Bids (IFB)

No. 169 / BeDA(Engg.), Dt.02.03.2026

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Bid Identification No.	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion	Availability of Bid Document for Online Bidding		Name & Address of Officer Inviting Bid
						From	To	
1.	Construction of 5.0 M x 2.5 M size CRUT Bus Queue Shelter (BQS) at different locations of Brahmapur, Odisha.	EM-BeDA-102/2025-26	300.11	"A" Class or Equivalent	03 (Three) Calendar Months	10.00 Hours of 03.03.2026	17.30 Hours of 23.03.26	

- All Corrigendum and addenda shall be published in official website only.
- The Bidder shall have to participate in **ON LINE** bidding only.
- Late date for seeking clarification - **Dt.12.03.2026 up to 17.30 Hours**.
- Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** and **www.bdabrahmapur.in**
- Tender shall be opened online on **Dt.24.03.2026 at 11 Hours**.

ENGINEER MEMBER,
Brahmapur Development Authority, Brahmapur.

19001/64/2526 OIPR-19001/19198/1/25-26/0003

BHUBANESWAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
AKASH SHOVA BUILDING, SACHIVALAYA MARG, BHUBANESWAR - 751001
PABX No.0674-2392801 / 0998 / 6437, FAX No.0674-2390633 / 085; Visit us at: http://www.bda.gov.in/

Invitation For Bids - Bid Identification No.110/EM/BDA/2025-26 Date: 25/02/2026

Engineer Member, BDA on behalf of Bhubaneswar Development Authority, Bhubaneswar invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for civil works as mentioned below:

1.	Nature of works	: **Provision of Street Light from Jatani Gate near NH-16 to entry gate up to road under Jatani NAC (near Adarsha Vidyalaya) and from Jatani Flyover up to Kudiary High School.**
2.	Total No. of works	: **01 (One) No.**
3.	Amount put to tender	: **Rs.101.71 Lakh**
4.	Class of Contractor	: **"HT"**
5.	Period of Completion	: **45 (Forty Five) Days**
6.	Cost of Bid Documents	: **Rs.10,000.00 + 18% GST=Rs.11,800.00 (Online transfer by the last date & time for receipt of bids)**
7.	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	: **1% of estimated cost put to tender (Online transfer by the last date & time for receipt of bids)**
8.	Availability of Tender	: **From 02.02.2026 to 5.30 PM of 16.03.2026 https://tendersodisha.gov.in.**
9.	Date of opening of Tender	: **Dt.17.03.2026 at 11.30 AM**
10.	Place of opening of Tender	: **O/o - Engineer Member, BDA, Bhubaneswar.**

Further details can be seen from the website: **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / Corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Engineer Member, BDA, Bhubaneswar.

13001/468/2526 OIPR-13001/13033/1/25-26/0038

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Kerala)
THYCAUD P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695014
Tele:0471-2945646, 2945600
website: www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, e-mail: eptenders.kmscl@kerala.gov.in
CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No. KMSCL/EP/232/2026 Dated : 04.03.2026

e-TENDER NOTICE (Running Contract)

Online bids are invited for the supply and installation of the following equipment for various Government healthcare institutions across Kerala

Sl. No	Tender No.	Description	Online Pre-Bid Meeting	Last date of Online submission
1.	T586/2026	Dental Laser, Automated Tissue Processor (Twin Basket), Microdebrider for ENT, Ergometer, Neonatal Resectoscope with Accessories, High Frequency Neonatal Ventilator, Active Passive Exercise System for upper and lower Extremity, Sperm Fuge	27.03.2026 11.00 am.	17.04.2026 5.00 p.m.
2.	T587/2026	Drying Cabinet, Nephroscope 19.5Fr, MRI Compatible Basic Vital Monitor, MRI Compatible Ventilator, Stroke bed with weighing Scale, Infusion Pump, Hemodialysis Machine, Pulse Oximeter Model A.	28.03.2026 11.00 am.	17.04.2026 5.00 p.m.
3.	T588/2026	Intubating Video Laryngoscope with Macintosh Blade,Body Box for Plethysmography, Holter Monitor Model C,Trinocular stereo Zoom Microscope, Fogging machine, Cycler for performing Peritoneal Dialysis (CAPD) Type A, Semi rigid Thoracoscope with Camera, Light Source and Display Unit.	31.03.2026 11.00 am.	18.04.2026 5.00 p.m.
4.	T589/2026	Crash Cart, Dialysis Chair, Instrument Trolley – Various Types, Medicine Trolley, Cleaning and Dressing Table (Procedure Table), Foot Step double, Foot Step Single, Iron cot SS, Fowlers Cot, Semi Fowlers Cot, Linen Trolley, Mayo Stand, Dressing Trolley, Over bed table, Emergency trolley (Trauma Emergency Cot), Examination Table, ICU Cot Model A , ICU Cot Model B , Surgeon mobile swivel stool.	N.A.	24.03.2026 5.00 p.m.
5.	T590/2026	HDR Brachytherapy with Treatment Planning System, MRI Scanner 1.5 Tesla Normal Bore (Helium Free), Gas Chromatograph System- FID with Accessories, ICPMS with accessories, Integrated HPTLC system, Instruments for VATS (Video assisted Thoracic Surgery), Isoelectric Focusing for Newborn Screening, Capillary Zone Electrophoresis, Schiotz Tonometer, Immobilization Shell-5 Point, Automated Field Analyzer (Perimeter), Circulatory Support System, Special Retractors and Instruments for doing Pelvi Acetabular Surgeries, Hand Held Autorefractokeratometer, Horizontal Electrophoresis Apparatus with all accessories, UV Transiluminator, Orbital Atherectomy System, Carbon Monoxide Breath Analyzer, Dental Acrylizer, Bottle Warmer for Thawing Milk, ELISA - Fully Automated, Retrieval Set for DDLT, Bottle Sealer with foil for Sealing Bottles, Exercise Table, Shower Trolley, Micro Needling and Radio Frequency, Intra Oral Digital Radiographic System Type B, FNAC Chair with Couch, Automated CPR System Model B, Pediatric Bed, Pediatric ICU Cot, Foetal Doppler, Air Bed, Transvaginal Uterine Artery Clamp,Refrigerated Centrifuge, OT Light Shadow-less Ceiling Mount Double Dome, OT Light Shadow-less Ceiling Mount Single Dome	N.A.	30.03.2026 5.00 p.m.

Tender documents and all other information related to tender and bidding process can be downloaded from the website www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.

Sd/- Managing Director (Tender Inviting Authority)

HUMBLE IN VICTORY

Player-of-the-Match award should have gone to Bumrah: Samson

PTI

I am very happy with how the team turned up and all credit goes to Jasprit Bumrah, a once-in-a-generation bowler. This (Player-of-the-Match award) should go to Bumrah actually. If we didn't bowl that way in the death overs, I think I would not be standing here — Sanju Samson after the epic semifinal.

RAINING RUNS

India and England deliver the highest-scoring T20 WC match

EMMANUAL YOGINI

India (253) and England (246) on Thursday combined to deliver the T20 World Cup match with the highest run aggregate. As many as 499 runs were scored at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. The 34 sixes (19 by India and 15 by England) led to a T20 World Cup record for most maximums in a game.

STILL HURTING

Archer doesn't hide his displeasure after Brook drops Samson's catch

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Jofra Archer did not hide his displeasure after Harry Brook handed Sanju Samson a reprieve in the third over. When Archer disturbed Tilak Varma's stumps in the penultimate over, he made his feeling clear to his captain. And when Brook tried to applaud Archer for the wicket, the fast bowler turned away and walked back to his mark.

STAR ATTRACTIONS

Dhoni and Rohit watch India light up the Wankhede

PTI

M.S. Dhoni and Rohit Sharma, India's T20 World Cup-winning captains, were present at the Wankhede Stadium to cheer the home side during its semifinal against England on Thursday. While Rohit is the tournament's brand ambassador, Dhoni made a rare appearance at an international fixture.

India survives a Bethell blitz, scrapes into the final

Samson's 42-ball 89 and cameos by Kishan and Dube power the Men in Blue to 253 for seven; the English left-hander almost pulls off a heist before Bumrah's mastery wins it for the home team

T20 WORLD CUP

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
MUMBAI

It was a Thursday with an early weekend vibe and the fans relished every second. Despite Jacob Bethell's incandescent ton, India prevailed over England by seven runs in the ICC T20 World Cup semifinal here at the Wankhede Stadium.

Chasing India's 253 for seven, England finished with 246 for seven. The visitors lost Phil Salt and skipper Harry Brook early. Even as Hardik Pandya and Jasprit Bumrah exulted, these wickets revealed Axar Patel's safe hands. Running away from cover, Axar dived and caught Brook's miscued shot.

Protagonists: Samson took the attack to the England bowlers from the word go before Bethell produced a blinder to keep his side in the hunt. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Extraordinary effort: Axar comes up with a spectacular catch to remove England captain Brook. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Buttler falls

Jos Buttler perhaps got carried away after seeing Bethell wade into Varun Chakaravarthy with three consecutive sixes. The opener's mighty heave against the harassed spinner, was an exercise in hope, and the stumps were in disarray.

England kept galloping as Bethell was astounding, Tom Banton unleashed a five-ball 17, and Will Jacks amplified the effect. When Jacks tried to take the aerial route, a sprinting Axar caught, relayed the ball to Shivam Dube, before toppling across the ropes.

The visitors still leant on Bethell (105), and the manner in which he swatted Bumrah down the leg-side, revealed his aura. However, when the southpaw got run-out in the last over, England's hopes were dashed.

Earlier, Brook won the toss, elected to field, and found a hurdle in Sanju Samson. The opener countered Jofra Archer's initial salvo. A four down the ground elicited a short-pitched delivery, which was swivelled away for six over fine-leg.

Abhishek Sharma drilled two fours off spinner Jacks, and then found the fielder in the deep. Ishan Kishan immediately forged an alliance with Samson. The latter had a reprieve on 15, when he popped a catch off Archer, but a twitchy Brook dropped.

Samson shifted gears while Kishan found his pickings against Jacks and Jamie Overton.

Meanwhile, Samson tucked into spinners Adil Rashid and Liam Dawson. And when Sam Curran ran in, Samson pulled him for six.

Meanwhile, Kishan perished and a returning Archer found Samson wielding a bruising sword. Two sixes rose into the skies, and when Samson (89) eventually succumbed to Jacks, the crowd rose in unison.

India found incremental growth through Dube, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik and Tilak Varma. The highlight was when Tilak scattered Archer for three sixes. The speedster castled the batter, but it was too late a riposte as India prospered even when Bethell created a scare.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Sanju Samson c Salt b Jacks 89 *(42b, 8x4, 7x6)*, Abhishek Sharma c Salt b Jacks 9 *(7b, 2x4)*, Ishan Kishan c Jacks b Rashid 39 *(18b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Shivam Dube run out 43 *(25b, 1x4, 4x6)*, Suryakumar Yadav st. Buttler b Rashid 11 *(6b, 1x6)*, Hardik Pandya run out 27 *(12b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Tilak Varma b Archer 21 *(7b, 3x6)*, Axar Patel (not out) 2 *(2b)*, Varun Chakaravarthy (not out) 0 *(1b)*; Extras (b-2, lb-1, w-9): 12; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 253.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-20 (Abhishek, 1.6 overs), 2-117 (Kishan, 9.3), 3-160 (Samson, 13.1), 4-190 (Suryakumar, 15.4), 5-212 (Dube, 17.3), 6-236 (Tilak, 18.5), 7-251 (Hardik, 19.5).

ENGLAND BOWLING

Archer 4-0-61-1, Jacks 4-0-40-2, Overton 3-0-36-0, Curran 4-0-53-0, Rashid 4-0-41-2, Dawson 1-0-19-0.

ENGLAND

Phil Salt c Axar b Hardik 5 *(3b, 1x4)*, Jos Buttler b Varun 25 *(17b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Harry Brook c Axar b Bumrah 7 *(6b, 1x4)*, Jacob Bethell run out 105 *(48b, 8x4, 7x6)*, Tom Banton b Axar 17 *(5b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Will Jacks c Dube b Arshdeep 35 *(20b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Sam Curran c Tilak b Hardik 18 *(14b, 2x4)*, Jamie Overton (not out) 2 *(3b)*, Jofra Archer (not out) 19 *(4b, 3x6)*; Extras (lb-3, w-10): 13; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 246.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-13 (Salt, 1.1), 2-38 (Brook, 4.1), 3-64 (Buttler, 5.5), 4-95 (Banton, 7.3), 5-172 (Jacks, 13.6), 6-222 (Curran, 18.3), 7-225 (Bethell, 19.1).

INDIA BOWLING

Arshdeep 4-0-51-1, Hardik 4-0-38-2, Bumrah 4-0-33-1, Varun 4-0-64-1, Axar 3-0-35-1, Dube 1-0-22-0.

Toss: England; **PoM:** Samson.
India won by seven runs.
The final: March 8: India vs. New Zealand, Ahmedabad, 7 p.m.

'We wanted to finish off the game a bit earlier'

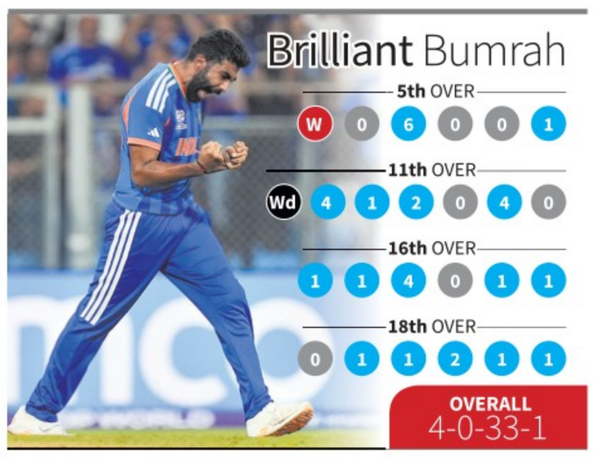
Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

With two southpaws – Jacob Bethell and Sam Curran – in full flow, India opted against giving left-arm spinner Axar Patel his fourth over. Instead, captain Suryakumar Yadav held back the final over of Axar until the very end – a move that proved decisive as India clinched a tense seven-run win over England to enter the ICC T20 World Cup final here on Thursday.

England needed 61 from the last four overs, leaving the contest finely poised. Hardik Pandya, Jasprit Bumrah and Arshdeep Singh each had an over remaining, with the question being not just who would bowl but when. The alternative option was to use medium-pacer Shivam Dube.

"The game was going neck-to-neck and they were trying to actually get 13-15 runs in an over. We knew that if we take the game till the end, they might actually get heavy on us," Sanju Samson, who was named Player-of-the-Match for the second successive game, said at the post-match media briefing.

Making the difference: Axar's outstanding fielding proved crucial in a high-scoring match. EMMANUAL YOGINI



"We just wanted to finish off the game a bit earlier. That's where we tried to bowl Bumrah, Arshdeep and Hardik in those three overs."

Bethell attacked Arshdeep in the 17th over, striking the last two deliveries for a six and four to bring the equation down to 45 off 18 balls. Bumrah followed with a typically tight over, conceding just six runs without allowing a boundary.

With 39 needed off the final two overs, Hardik delivered a vital blow. Not only did he break the threatening partnership but also conceded just nine runs in the penultimate over.

Bethell, who had reached three figures, was run out off the first ball of the final over bowled by Dube. Though Dube conceded 22 runs, the cushion of 29 runs proved just enough as India sealed a place in the final against New Zealand in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

Costly miss

England captain Harry Brook admitted that his dropped catch of Samson when the batter was on 15 proved costly.

"Unfortunately, I didn't catch it and he played a very good innings as well. Obviously it's in the back of your mind. I kept on looking at the scoreboard and he was piling the runs on. I was like, I am going to have to get 80-90 tonight. It's not ideal but it happened''.

Took the bull by the horns, says Black Caps hero Allen

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

The recipe to halt the South African juggernaut was simple; win the toss and "take the bull by the horns", said explosive New Zealand opener Finn Allen after powering the Kiwis into the T20 World Cup final with the fastest century of the tournament.

South Africa had entered the semifinal as the only unbeaten team in the competition, with seven successive wins. It had defeated New Zealand in the group stage and toppled tournament host and favourite India in the Super Eight stage. But the Kiwis were at their ruthless best as they knocked out the last edition's runner-up with a nine-wicket win that came with 43 balls to spare.

"We just hoped [skipper Mitchell] Santner would win a toss to start and he did that. That was

Allen. K.R. DEEPAK

the first part done and from then onwards it was just taking the bull by the horns... Take the game on and not shy away from any challenge," Allen, who slammed a 33-ball unbeaten 100, said.

Put in, South Africa failed to get going in the PowerPlay with off-spinning all-rounder Cole McConchie dismissing Quinton de Kock and Ryan Rickelton off successive deliveries in the second over. Thereafter, it was the turn of Rachin Ravindra and Matt Henry to tighten the noose to restrict South Africa to an below-par total.

"The bowlers set the tone for us; taking early wickets on what we thought was going to be a really good batting pitch, was extremely important.

"They've (South Africa) got an incredibly powerful batting line-up and hats off to the boys. They set it up for us with the ball and as I said, we didn't really have a plan...," said Allen.

The Kiwis analysed their group-stage defeat to the Proteas in Ahmedabad and built on the positives. "They've been outstanding all tournament, backing up with performances. But playing them earlier gave us a bit of insight into their plans and we tried to use that to our advantage." Allen said.

INBRIEF

India under-20 women score five against Alvsjo AIK

The India under-20 women's football team defeated Swedish club Alvsjo AIK 5-2 in a friendly match at the Boson National Sports Centre, in Lidingo, Sweden, on Thursday. Lhingdeikim scored a hat-trick, netting in the first minute, the 20th (penalty), and the 59th. Cindy Colney (34) and Sulanjana Raul (90) scored one apiece to make it five for the Indian eves.

First batch of Zimbabwe players leaves India

Stranded in India due to the closure of Gulf airspace, a batch of Zimbabwe's cricketers left for home following the end of their T20 World Cup campaign after the ICC reworked their travel arrangements to avoid the region immersed in conflict right now. Zimbabwe was scheduled to leave on Monday, but was stuck in Delhi owing to the closure of airspace in the Gulf region following the US and Israeli strikes on Iran. The first batch of players finally left for home on Wednesday in alternate flights.

Zadran replaces Rashid as Afghanistan T20I skipper

Afghanistan replaced Rashid Khan with Ibrahim Zadran as skipper on Thursday for the T20I series against Sri Lanka, but is still monitoring the situation in the United Arab Emirates to stage the matches. The series begins with three T20Is in Sharjah on March 13, 15 and 17 before the ODIs are played in Dubai on March 20, 22 and 25.

The squads: T20I: Ibrahim Zadran (Capt.), Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Noor Rahman, Sediqullah Atal, Darwish Rasooli, Shahidullah Kamal, Azmatullah Omarzai, Mohammad Nabi, Sharafuddin Ashraf, Rashid Khan, Noor Ahmad, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Zia Ur Rahman Sharifi, Fareed Ahmad Malik, Abdullah Ahmadzai
ODI: Hashmatullah Shahidi (Capt.), Rahmat Shah, Gurbaz, Ikram Alikhil, Zadran, Atal, Rasooli, Omarzai, Nabi, Rashid, Nangyal Kharoti, AM Ghazanfar, Sharifi, Malik, Bilal Sami.

Hyderabad winter races set to start on March 9

The Board of Directors and stewards of Hyderabad Race Club have decided to commence the Hyderabad winter races with two race days on March 9 and 10, each featuring a card of seven races. The sheet prospectus will be released shortly.

Kane out of Bayern's next match with calf injury

Harry Kane will miss Bayern Munich's Bundesliga match against Borussia Moenchengladbach with a calf injury.The England striker should be fit in time for the Champions League last-16 first leg at Atalanta next Tuesday.

Indian team for the World Boxing Futures Cup

A 10-member Indian team has been selected for the World Boxing Futures Cup, scheduled to be held in Bangkok from March 8 to 15. The event will provide international exposure to young boxers in the run-up to the Dakar Youth Olympics, scheduled from October 31 to November 13.

The squad: Men: Ambekar Meetei Lairenlakpam (50kg), Udham Singh Raghav (55kg), Sahil Duhan (60kg), Aman Siwach (65kg), Priyansh Sehrawat (70kg).
Women: Gunjan (48kg), Chandrika Bhoreshi Pujari (51kg), Joyshree Devi Chirom (54kg), Radhamani Longjam (57kg), Prachi (60kg).

Karnataka women get the better of Baroda

Karnataka defeated Baroda by 79-runs in the BCCI under-23 women's one day trophy at Jaipur.

The scores: Karnataka 232/8 in 50 overs (Rachitha Hatwar 45, P. Saloni 50 n.o.) bt Baroda 153 in 37.2 overs (Vidhi Parmar 54, P. Saloni 3/15).

LIVE TELECAST

Australia Women vs India Women: One-off Test, day 1, Star Sports 3 & JioHotstar, 10.50 a.m.
ISL: Sony Sports Ten 2 & FanCode, 5 & 7.30 p.m.
I-League: Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 7 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 1 a.m. (Saturday)
Serie A: DAZN, 1.15 a.m. (Saturday)
LaLiga: FanCode, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)

India seeks Test win balm after the ODI whitewash against Australia

Harmanpreet's side can take heart from the fact that it is unbeaten in its last five outings; the hosts will be eager to give Healy a grand send-off

INDIA IN AUSTRALIA

Press Trust of India
PERTH

Hammered in the ODIs, the Indian women's cricket team will expect its senior players to step up when it faces Australia in a day-night Test for the first time in nearly five years, starting here on Friday.

India is unbeaten in its last five Tests. The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side won won three consecutive Tests between December 2023 and July 2024 defeating England, Australia and South Africa respectively, but all those wins came on home soil.

India's last two overseas Tests ended in draws against England and Australia in 2021.

Key personnel: India will need its seniors like Smriti and Jemimah to deliver with the bat to get a positive result. FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

The pink ball Test will conclude the multi-format series between the two rivals. India won the T20Is before being blanked in the ODIs, giving Australia an 8-4 lead in the points tally.

The winner of the Test will get four points for an outright win. Australia will walk away with the overall honours with a draw here, while India has to win to level the final standings.

While the onus will be on the likes of seniors Harmanpreet, her deputy Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Varma, Jemimah Rodrigues and Deepti Sharma in the batting department, focus would also be on stylish right-hander Pratika Rawal, who is expected to make her Test debut on Friday.

The squad has seven uncapped players, including 20-year-old left-arm spinner Vaishnavi Sharma, Kranti Gaud, Sayali Satghare, and Kashvee Gautam.

Australia will look to give a grand farewell to its captain Alyssa Healy, who will be playing her 299th and final international match.

Australia too has uncapped players in Rachel Trenaman and Maitlan Brown following the quad injuries to Kim Garth and Ellyse Perry, and the back problem of Sophie Molineux.

While both Garth and Molineaux are ruled out, Australia is hoping that Perry will recover in time.

The teams (from): Australia: Alyssa Healy (Capt. & wk), Darcie Brown, Maitlan Brown, Nicola Carey, Ashleigh Gardner, Kim Garth, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Beth Mooney, Tahlia McGrath, Ellyse Perry, Annabel Sutherland, Rachel Trenaman, Georgia Voll, Georgia Wareham.
India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana (Vice-capt.), Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh (wk), Deepti Sharma, Kashvee Gautam, Sneh Rana, Amanjot Kaur, Uma Chetry (wk), Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, Kranti Gaud, Vaishnavi Sharma, Sayali Satghare.
Match starts at 10:50 a.m. IST.

Arsenal noses ahead in title race as Man City falters

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Premier League leader Arsenal stretched its lead over Manchester City to seven points on Wednesday with a nervy win at Brighton, while Pep Guardiola's men was held to a costly 2-2 draw by Nottingham Forest.

Arsenal drew first blood in the battle for the English title as Bukayo Saka celebrated his 300th Arsenal appearance with a goal in the ninth minute at Brighton's Amex Stadium.

The home side dominated possession and had more shots but Arsenal kept it at bay, digging deep to see out a nerve-jangling 1-0 win. Second-placed City, which has a game in hand, appeared to be on course to stay within five points of top spot.

But it twice surrendered its lead to relegation-threatened Forest, whose battling performance kept it out of the drop zone, above West Ham on goal difference.

Clincher: Saka scores Arsenal's winner against Brighton. REUTERS

Michael Carrick suffered his first defeat over his two spells as Manchester United's interim manager as the visitors failed to capitalise on their man advantage in a 2-1 loss against Newcastle at St James' Park.

Elsewhere in the tight race for Champions League qualification, Joao Pedro scored a hat-trick for Chelsea to beat Aston Villa 4-1.

The results: Premier League: Aston Villa 1 (Luiz 2) lost to Chelsea 4 (Joao Pedro 35, 45+6, 64, Palmer 55); Brighton 0 lost to Arsenal 1 (Saka 9); Fulham 0 lost to West Ham 1 (Summerville 65); Manchester City 2 (Semenyo 31, Rodri 62) drew with Nottingham Forest 2 (Gibbs-White 56, Anderson 76); Newcastle 2 (Gordon 45+6-pen, Osula 90) bt Manchester United 1 (Casemiro 45+9).

Bundesliga: Hamburg 0 lost to Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Kofane 73).

LaLiga: Rayo Vallecano 3 (De Frutos 44, 50-pen, Garcia 62) bt Real Oviedo 0.

FC Goa holds wasteful East Bengal to a draw

ISL

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

East Bengal FC was held to a goalless draw by the visiting FC Goa in their Indian Super League fixture at the Salt Lake Stadium on Thursday.

East Bengal was the more attacking side throughout the contest but failed to find the finishing touch to beat Goa goalkeeper Hrithik Tiwari.

The host created a few promising chances in the first half but could not convert them.

The best opportunity for East Bengal came in the 27th minute when Bipin Singh sent in a fine cross from the left that found Youssef Ezzejjari inside the box. The Spaniard timed his run well but his close-range volley sailed over the bar.

East Bengal came close again in the 42nd minute

Equal to the challenge: FC Goa goalkeeper Hrithik thwarts Sojberg. PTI

when midfielder Basim Rashid unleashed a powerful long-range drive. The dipping shot forced a fumble from Hrithik, but the crossbar came to the goalkeeper's rescue.

Missed chance

Goa had a golden chance one minute earlier when Boris Singh broke through the East Bengal defence and attempted a shot from close range. However, his effort too struck the crossbar.

Goa maintained a compact defensive structure for most of the match, successfully absorbing East Bengal's repeated attacking moves as the host continued to press for a breakthrough.

East Bengal now has seven points from four matches, while Goa moved to eight points from four games.

WI players set to fly back home by a charter flight

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

After days of anxious wait, the West Indies team is set to return home sooner than later.

The West Indies team lost its last Super Eight match to India at the Eden Gardens here on Sunday resulting in its eventual exit from the T20 World Cup. But it remained stranded here due to flight cancellations owing to the ongoing war in the West Asia.

It is reliably learnt that the team will take a charter flight to fly back home.

According to sources in the International Cricket Council on Thursday, the men from the Caribbean will board a direct flight to Antigua. Details of the date and time of the flight are expected to be known in 24 hours. Since it is a 15-hour flight covering different sectors, clearances for the aircraft need to be taken for two days.

Earlier in the day, West Indies coach Daren Sammy took to social media seeking clarity on his team's departure. "I just wanna go home," said Sammy on 'X' before adding, "At least an update, tell us something. Today, tomorrow, next week. It's been 5 days."

He thanked authorities concerned after getting an update on the team's travel.

Even-stevens: Aravindh had to be content with half-a-point against Yakubboev. PRAGUECHESSFESTIVAL.COM

Gukesh's quest for first win continues

CHESS

Press Trust of India
PRAGUE

World champion D. Gukesh's hunt for a win continued as Iran's Parham Maghsoodloo held the Indian ace to a draw in the seventh round of the Masters section of the Prague International chess festival here.

With just two rounds remaining, Gukesh sits on the last spot with two points.

Meanwhile, the other Indian in the event, defending champion Aravindh Chithambaram, drew with Nodirbek Yakubboev of Uzbekistan to remain on a fifty percent score after seven games.

The lone winner of the day was Vincent Keymer of Germany who defeated David Anton Guijarro of Spain leaving Dutchman Jorden van Foreest half a point ahead of his closest rivals David Navara of Czech Republic and Nodribek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan.

In the Challengers' section, Grandmaster Divya Deshmukh had another good result, holding Jonas Buhl Bjerre of Denmark to a draw while Grandmaster Surya Shekhar Ganguly finally scored his first victory at the expense of Zhu Jiner of China.

The results: seventh round: Masters: Parham Maghsoodloo (3.5) drew with D. Gukesh (2); Aravindh Chithambaram (3) drew with Nodirbek Yakubboev (3); Vincent Keymer (3.5) beat David Anton Guijarro (3.5); Nodirbek Abdusattorov (4.5) drew with Jorden van Foreest (5); David Navara (4.5) drew with Hans Moke Niemann (2.5).
Challengers: Thomas Beerdsen (3.5) lost to Daniil Yuffa (4); Surya Shekhar Ganguly (2.5) beat Zhu Jiner (2); Finek Vanclav (5) drew with Benjamin Gledura (3.5) Nemec Jachym (4) beat Hrbek Stepan (3.5); Jonas Bjerre Buhl (3.5) drew with Divya Deshmukh (3.5).

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Easy outing: Ankita in action on Thursday.

Vaishnavi, Ankita advance

Vaishnavi Adkar and Ankita Raina progressed to the singles quarterfinals of the ITF W35 Kalaburagi at the Chandrashekhar Patil Stadium, Kalaburagi, on Thursday.

In the second round, third seed Vaishnavi cruised past Anna Siedysheva 6-2, 6-0. Eighth seed Ankita also advanced comfortably, defeating Milana Maslenkova 6-2, 6-1.

Other results:

Second round: Elina Nepliy bt Zeel Desai 7-6(3), 6-3; Jasmijn Gimbrere bt Eva Marie Desvignes 7-5, 7-5; Anchisa Chanta bt Polina Kuharenko 6-3, 6-3.

Thasaporn Naklo bt Sofia Martianova 6-3, 6-0; Maayan Laron bt Michika Ozeki 6-3, 6-1; Evgeniya Burdina bt Sofiia Suslova 7-6(1), 6-2.

I think Serena is coming back, predicts Djokovic

Agence France-Presse
INDIAN WELLS

Novak Djokovic is convinced US tennis great Serena Williams will return to competition. "I think she's coming back," the 24-time Grand Slam champion said on Wednesday. "I don't know. I haven't spoken to her, but I guess the sentiment is that she's coming back. Where and how, singles, doubles, we don't know, and if I'm in her position, I would hide it too." Serena, a 23-time Grand Slam champion, hasn't competed since the 2022 US Open.

Gritty Lakshya moves into the quarterfinals

Playing a razor-sharp game, the Indian fights through intense rallies and physical exchanges to prevail over Hong Kong's Ng Ka Long in 81 minutes

Strategic play: Lakshya mixed his attack with some robust defence to ward off Ng Ka Long. INSTAGRAM/ALLENGLANDOFFICIAL

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
BIRMINGHAM

A relentless Lakshya Sen produced a gritty performance to beat Hong Kong's Angus Ng Ka Long 21-19, 21-23, 21-10 and storm into the men's singles quarterfinals of the All England Open badminton championships here on Thursday.

Lakshya, a finalist at the 2022 edition, will face Chinese sixth seed Li Shi Feng for a place in the last four.

Lakshya, who came into the match after losing all three encounters against his opponent, fought back from 4-6 down to establish a 17-13 lead in the first game, keeping the pressure on his opponent with aggressive returns and sharp placement.

At 15-17, Lakshya left one at the backline but it was judged out. The Indian had no video challenges left and had to let it go.

The Indian then produced a sharp smash to reach 19-17, but Ng Ka Long clawed back to 19-19 with a cross-court winner. Another jump smash gave Lakshya a game point and he sealed it when Ng Ka Long hit wide.

Lakshya kept his shot quality consistent and mixed his power with precision to lead 14-7 in the second game.

However, Ng Ka Long stepped up his game to 17-19 before an incredible cross-court smash brought up three match points for Lakshya.

But Lakshya missed one and then Ng Ka Long found the line by a millimetre before saving another to make it 20-20. Lakshya grabbed another match point, only to give it away and then Ng Ka Long earned a game point with a smash and forced a decider after the Indian found the net.

Lakshya's defence was robust in the third as he surged to 6-2 and then 10-4. The rallies started growing shorter as Lakshya drew errors from the Hong Kong shuttler, making the latter trail 6-14.

Ng Ka Long tried to cause problems for Lakshya but the Indian managed to wriggle out of position with his superb defence, diving at will to keep the rallies alive. Lakshya then upped the pace to move to 18-7 and soon earned 11 match points. He wasted one before sealing it.

In mixed doubles, Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto retired hurt after trailing 19-21, 8-9 in their pre-quarterfinal against Hong Kong's Tang Chun Man and Tse Ying Suet.

Leap into the unknown: can F1 overcome the complications, changes and challenges?

FORMULA ONE

S. Dipak Ragav

As Formula One enters a new era with this weekend's Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne, there is a sense of excitement but also trepidation about what will unfold.

Ahead of the 2026 season, F1 has introduced a drastic overhaul of regulations for power units and chassis.

In focus: The McLaren duo of Norris and Piastri will look to continue its domination. Hamilton will be aiming for a reverse in fortunes. AFP

Pandora's box

However, these changes might have opened a Pandora's box of problems whose effects are not yet fully understood.

The new 2026 engine formula is a major leap in technology, with nearly 50% of the power delivered from an electric source, recharged by converting energy lost under braking.

F1 had already embraced hybrid technology in 2014, but the traditional Internal Combustion Engine part of the Power Unit remained dominant, contributing 80% of the total output.

The problem, though, under the new rules, is that cars can be energy-starved, meaning they may not have full power at all times.

This can be especially concerning on tracks without large braking zones to recover enough energy to recharge the battery.

The first race at Albert Park is a prime example: drivers are on the brakes only 10% to 11% of the total race duration, or about

Verstappen. REUTERS

eight to 10 seconds per lap, according to brake supplier Brembo.

If the battery can't be recharged enough while braking, the alternative is to divert the engine's power through an electric motor to shore up the battery.

Adaptive: Mercedes and Russell caught the eye in the pre-season testing in Bahrain with a heavy lap load and fast times. AP

And this is where the problem begins, because doing this means the engine power will not reach the rear wheels, which will affect speed.

There are concerns that drivers and teams will have to slow through high-speed corners, or even at the end of straights, to replenish the battery.

These adjustments to driving styles have irked the drivers considerably, as they require them to be more constrained.

During pre-season running in Bahrain, two-time champion Fernando Alonso quipped that his team's chef could drive the car, considering how much he had to lift out of a high-speed corner compared to previous years.

'Anti-racing'

Max Verstappen was even more critical of the new rules, calling them "anti-racing".

"As a pure driver, I enjoy driving flat out. And at the moment, you cannot drive like that. A lot of what you do as a driver, in terms of inputs, has a massive effect on the energy side of things. For me, that's just not Formula One," said Verstappen during pre-season testing.

On the one hand, drivers still face challenges adapting to new variables, such as harvesting and deploying energy, and the best often do so quickly.

At the same time, it could make the Grands Prix too random and alienate fans with the complexity involved, and lay viewers could get confused about how the race is unfolding.

Early days

Still, these are early days, and F1, as a sport, has always shown an ability to overcome complex engineering challenges. The first few races will give a glimpse of how effective the new formula will be.

For now, fans and stakeholders will wait with bated breath, hoping the doomsday scenarios do not play out and teams get on top of things.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-(IREPS) Tender Notice No. 50 UBL 2025-26 Dated: 26-02-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders (IREPS) for the following works:

Sl.	Name of Work	Approx. Value
1	**Hubballi Division :-** Proposed construction of Type-II, 12 units staff quarters at Londa on replacement.	Rs. 2,96,82,313/-
2	**Hubballi Division :-** In-situ Re-Conditioning of Switches & CMS Crossings using Translamatic robotic welding technique.	Rs. 1,57,58,135/-
3	**Hubballi Division :-** Supply of Ballast at Kalem Depot in Senior Divisional Engineer/West/Hubballi Jurisdiction.	Rs. 4,94,54,869/-

Last date for submission of bids:**Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 26-03-2026**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/953/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Senior Divisional Engineer /Co-Ordination/Hubballi**

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders (IREPS) for the following works:

Publication of E-Tender Notice No. B/TRD.2025-26/34 Dated:26-02-2026

Item of Work	Approx. Value
Provision of Anti monkey climbing device in monkey prone area to stop climbing monkeys on OHE masts/structures in Bengaluru Division.	Rs. 52,56,677.75

Publication of E-Tender Notice No. B/TRD.2025-26/42 Dated:26-02-2026

Item of Work	Approx. Value
[i] OHE modifications in connection with replacing Low HT shelter of PF 7&8, provision of shelter in open area between second entry building and platform entrance including granite flooring **[ii]** OHE modifications in connection with Augmentation of AC Loco Trip Shed at Bengaluru. **[iii]** Provision of OHE for pit line No.1 at Bengaluru yard. **[iv]** Conversion of tramway OHE to conventional at Bengaluru yard **[v]** BIDOHE modifications in connection with provision of proposed Rd-06 (Spur Line of 686m) with shunting neck of 650m towards Bengaluru end duly dismantling existing Goods unloading platform adjacent to Rd-5 **[vi]** OHE modification in connection with proposed extension of PF-1 and PF-2 for a length of 150 mtrs and 5 mtr width at Krishnadevaraya Halt station in Bengaluru-Yeliyur section **[vii]** OHE Modification of shifting Y TSS down line PTFE	Rs. 3,48,87,904.24

Last date for submission of bids for above Tenders:**Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 20-03-2026**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/955/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer /TRD / Bengaluru**

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government Of India Undertaking)

Regional Office : Mandya No. 4 F, Vivekananda Nagar, Chikka Mandya Kere, Mandya - 571401 Mob.: 8660593395
Email id : recmandyaro@canarabank.com

POSSESSION NOTICE [For Immovable Property]

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **Canara Bank, Kodamballi Branch** under the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002), and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice Dated **22.12.2025 (Acknowledgment done on 29.12.2025)** calling upon the **1. Borrower : M/s. Alankar Fashion,** No. 701, Nanjundeshwara Complex, Kodamballi, Virupakshipura Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagaram, Karnataka –562138 **2. Proprietor : Sri. Bhoomisiddegowda K B** S/o Basavaraju, Resident Of Kondapura Village, Channapatna Tq, Ramanagaram, Karnataka – 562138 **3. Guarantors Cum Mortgagor: Smt. Anitha M C** W/o Nagaraju B L, Resident Of Kodamballi Village, Virupakshipura Hobli, Channapatna, Ramanagaram, Karnataka – 562138. to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs. 15,05,237.41 (Rupees Fifteen Lakhs Five Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-Seven and Forty-One Paisa Only)** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this **03rd day of March of the year 2026.**

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Canara Bank, Kodamballi Branch** for an amount of **Rs. 15,51,402.41 (Rupees Fifteen Lakhs Fifty-One Thousand Four Hundred Two and Forty One Paisa Only)** and further interest, incidental expenses thereon.

Name of Title Holder : SMT. ANITHA M C W/O NAGARAJU B L

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All That Part And Parcel Of The Property Bearing Kaneshumari Katha No. 426/231/1/119/A, Property No: 152900101300120169, Situated At Kodamballi Village, Virupakshipura Hobli, Channapatna Taluk And Ramanagara District, Karnataka – 562138. **Measuring : East To West – 27.432 Meters , North To South – 10.058 Meters And Total Measurement – 275.92 Square Meters. Boundaries: East –** Land Of Applicant In Survey Number, **West –** Road, **North –** 8 Feet Road, **South –** Road And Property Of Applicant.

Date : 03-03-2026
Place : Mandya

Sd/- Authorized Officer
Canara Bank

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL :: CEDCO BSF BENGALURU, AFS YELAHANKA, BENGALURU - 560063.

No. 1005/24/Prov/CEDCO/Auction-Notice/2026/854-60 Dated, the 03 March 2026

// AUCTION NOTICE //

On behalf of the President of India, the Inspector General, CEDCO BSF Bengaluru, intend to dispose of following unserviceable stores through Public Auction on **23.03.2026 at 1100 Hrs** at CEDCO, Border Security Force, PO-AFS Yelahanka, Bengaluru in accordance with following terms and conditions: -

STORES:-

(i) Unserviceable Provisioning Stores (ii) Unserviceable Communication Stores (iii) Unserviceable Motor Transport Stores (iv) Unserviceable Engineering Stores (v) Unserviceable Institution Hospital Stores (vi) Unserviceable Mess Stores (vii) Misc items etc.

CONDITIONS:-

1. All authorized bidders are eligible to participate in the auction.
2. Every bidder must register themselves or their authorized representative with the Inspector General, CEDCO BSF atleast an hour before the auction begins.
3. Every bidder must deposit an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of Rs. 25,000/- in cash before participating. This amount will be returned or adjusted after the auction, except in the case of the successful bidder.
4. The Successful bidder must deposit 100% of the cost of the auctioned stores along with all applicable taxes such as GST, Sales Tax and surcharges immediately after the bid is finalized. If the successful bidder fails to make this payment the earnest money will be forfeited. The successful bidder must also pay TDS on the auction value along with the applicable GST amount.
5. The successful bidder must lift and remove all purchased stores on the same day after completing 100% payment of the auction value.
6. No Transport will be provided by this Institution for shifting of stores to their destination.
7. In case the successful bidder fails to lift the stores from the site of auction within the stipulated time, the successful bidder will be liable to pay charges of ground rent at the prevalent rates up to a maximum period of 10 days @ Rs. 1,000/- per day. Thereafter, the earnest money deposited by him shall be forfeited and the stores will be put up for auction again.
8. All stores will be auctioned "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS".
9. GST/Sales Tax/ Surcharges, as applicable, will be charged extra on bid value.
10. The auction will be held as per departmental rules and regulations.
11. Other conditions, if any, will be announced at the time of auction.
12. EMD will be refunded after completion of auction and no bidder is allowed to leave the campus before completion of auction.
13. The decision of the Inspector General, CEDCO BSF Bengaluru in all respect shall be final, in case of any dispute.

SD./-
For Inspector General
CEDCO BSF Bengaluru

CBC19110/11/0108/2526

THE HINDU GROUP

WITH OVER 4 LAKH VOTES IN, THE STAGE IS SET.

Every year, sport moves forward. But sometimes, it moves fast-forward. For Indian sport, 2025 was that year.

At the Sportstar Aces Awards 2026, we rewind the tape to honour the players, coaches and institutions who accelerated the game. The ones who didn't just win, but changed the pace. With over 4 lakh votes in, the stage is set. The verdict is sealed. Now, the winners take the stage.

March 13, 2026 | Mumbai | 6:30 PM onwards

Amul Presents SPORTSTAR ACES 2026 #IndiaTriumphs
Co-presented by CASAGRAND building aspirations
In Association with SRM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Follow us on Instagram to stay updated as the celebrations unfold.

Presenting Partner: Amul
Co-presenting Partner: CASAGRAND building aspirations
In association with: SRM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
Associate Partners: SBI, Yono SBI, CHRIST
Associate Partners: Bharat Petroleum, Government of Telangana, Sports Authority of Telangana, NTPC
Education Partner: REVA UNIVERSITY
Cooling Partner: BLUE STAR BUILT ON TRUST
Telecast Partner: TIMES NOW

A BG-BGE

TVS

- PRESENTING THE ALL-NEW -

TVS RONIN

AGONDA EDITION

CUSTOM-INSPIRED R CUSTOM-INSPIRED

FROM THE SUN, SANDS AND SOUL OF GOA

STARTING FROM ₹1.26 L*

Ride #UnScripted

1800 315 7666

NEW COLOUR TONE | RAIN & URBAN ABS MODES | UPSIDE DOWN FRONT FORK

NO COST EMI** | LOW DOWN PAYMENT ₹11,999# | INSTANT CASHBACK UP TO ₹7,500**

SCAN TO KNOW MORE

#T&C apply. ##Finance will be at the sole discretion of financier. **Applicable on HDFC EasyEMI on credit card. #Finance schemes are mutually exclusive and cannot be clubbed with each other. *Ex-showroom price of Lightning Black (base variant) may change, depending on the location.

TVSCREDIT HDFC BANK We understand your world IDFC FIRST Bank ALWAYS YOU FIRST TATA CAPITAL

FOR ALL INSTITUTIONAL/BULK REQUIREMENTS PLEASE MAIL corporate.customersupport@tvsmotor.com Authorized Main Dealers: **BANGALORE: Jayanagar:** Bharath TVS: 9364001954, 9538887036, **Rajajinagar:** Bridgestone TVS: 9036657247, **Nagarbhavi:** Global Autokraft: 76193 75566, **Mahalakshmi Layout:** Global Autokraft: 7619265566, **Basaveshwara Nagar:** Global Autokraft: 9606019180, **Kalyan Nagar:** PRN TVS: 9620000724, **Chamrajpet :** PRN TVS: 6366936912, **Domlur:** PRN TVS: 6366936931, **Bommasandra:** Bengaluru TVS: 6366258111, **Harlur:** Bengaluru TVS: 6366248111, **Banshankari:** Synergy TVS: 8792499451, **Bomanahalli:** Synergy TVS: 8792499454, **Kanakapura Road:** Dhancharan TVS: 9916183232, **Jalahalli Cross:** Prakruthi TVS: 9972365719, **Ganga Nagar:** Prakruthi TVS: 99723665791, **Bhadrappa Layout:** Prakruthi TVS: 9972363322, **Bommanahalli:** Arunagiri TVS: 9740995037, **HSR Layout:** Kubera TVS: 8904084251, **Sarjapur Road:** Indian TVS: 9980844993, **Kadubesanhalli:** Indian TVS: 9980844993, **Bannerghatta Road:** Neo TVS: 9620134664, **Tin Factory:** Dimple TVS: 8147117435/36, **Marathahalli:** Trijal TVS: 7349278333, **Whitefield:** Trijal TVS: 8971598119, **Yelahanka:** Hemanth TVS: 9740180379, **Vidyaranyapura:** Hemanth TVS: 9740180379, **Dodballapur:** Hemanth TVS: 9740180379, **Sahakarnagar:** Hemanth TVS: 9740180379, **Rajarajeshwari Nagar:** Solar TVS: 9148267949, **Kengeri:** Solar TVS: 9513777427, **Channasandra:** Solar TVS: 7337887814, **J P Nagar:** Solar TVS: 9513310624, **Hanumanth Nagar:** Solar TVS: 9148997405, **Kagallipura:** Solar TVS: 9035241869, **Krishnarajapuram:** Suryapratap TVS: 9513740009, **Thanisandra:** Suryapratap TVS: 9513740011 /9986716999, **Lalbag Road:** Himaalayaa TVS: 9513077787, **Koramanagala**: Flagship TVS: 9035154376, **BTM Layout:** Synergy TVS: 8792499453, **Maranahalli:** Synergy TVS: 8792499452, **BHEL- Mysore Raod:** Prakruthi TVS: 9606948590, **Attibele:** Balakrishna TVS: 9620851817, **Jigani:** Sri Balaji TVS: 9845762549, **Hoskote:** NithinTVS: 8123363849, **Nelamangala:** Prakruthi TVS: 7353770287, **Mahadevpura:** Vega TVS: 7618798890, **Kanakapura:** Anjanadri TVS: 9972130096, **Ramnagara:** Samarth TVS: 9513949993, **Channapatna:** Samarth TVS: 9513979997, **Ramamurthi Nagar:** Suryapratap TVS: 9513740006, **Ulsoor:** Suryapratap TVS: 9480811623, **Cox Town:** Suryapratap TVS: 9513373012, **Jeevan Bheema Nagar:** PRN TVS: 6366936879, **Vijayanagar:** RPM TVS: 9606077910, **E.City:** RPM TVS: 9696077904, **HBR layout:** Arunagiri TVS: 9035146677, **Kolar:** Saravana TVS: 9900403317, **K.G.F.:** Saravana TVS: 9900403317, **Chikballapur:** Maruthi TVS: 6360700285, **Kolar:** Sri Venu TVS: 9986833599, **Tumkur:** Sree Balaji TVS: 8971657342, Srigiri TVS: 8971657691, Vasista TVS: 8861025451, **Tiptur:** Nikitha TVS: 8971675903.

A BG-BGE